

PENTHOUSE

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MEN

THE TRAVEL ISSUE

**DARK TOURISM:
PUBLIC CREMATIONS
THE LATEST
HOLIDAY CRAZE**

**INTERVIEW:
LEONARDO
DICAPRIO**

**ELON MUSK:
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

WE are only a few months into the new year, but 2016 has already been a rollercoaster ride. The race to the White House is well on its way, proving to be one of the biggest (and possibly most embarrassing) political spectacles on earth. Who will be the next leader of the free world? How will it affect us all?

And as social technology advances, so does our lust for voyeurism. It is now possible to peep on friends on the other side of the planet with the click of a button. But, surprisingly, we are becoming more isolated. No longer do we need to leave our house or to make a call to chat with a friend. Gratification now comes in the form of a little box of light delivered straight to your iPhone. Swipe right. Swipe left. Double tap. No need to even leave the bed.

But maybe you yearn for more? Perhaps the digital world doesn't quite satisfy your more adventurous side. Perchance you feel the need to travel and experience something in person; to feel it, touch it, and smell it. And maybe you're after something a bit murkier? In this Travel Issue of Penthouse we take a look at Dark Tourism, an unusual place where the macabre and tourism find common ground. But don't worry, we've also got your guide to all things travel, style, and culture to keep you in the know and on top of your game, so you can be the best man you can be.

Enjoy...or just swipe left and keep it moving.



89

WANDERLUST



PENTHOUSE

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EVENT PLANNER

THE ART OF THE BRICK - DC COMICS

NOW UNTIL MAY 1ST

Power House, Sydney

Sydney, the city of lockout laws, sniffer dogs and over policing, however, at least we get *The Art Of The Brick* before the rest of the world... ha! The event incorporates over a million Lego bricks which have been constructed into some of your favorite DC comic characters - think Batman, Superman, Harley Quinn (can Lego be sexy?), the Joker and more. It's currently exhibiting at the Power House, Sydney, until May. Be there, or be square.

HOT TUB CINEMA

21 APRIL THROUGH MAY

South Wharf, Melbourne

Not one to be outdone by Sydney, Melbourne has you covered on those hot nights that'll have you sweating like Josef Fritzl on MTV Cribs. *Hot Tub*

Cinema takes all of the finer things in life - hot tubs, booze, groups of strangers, unidentified floating objects - and combines them in one big melting pot of... entertainment. The first *Hot Tub Cinema* session takes place on the 21st of April, and will likely screen *White Chicks*, or *Step Brothers*, to be confirmed.



SUPANOVA POP CULTURE EXPO

15 - 17 APRIL

Melbourne howgrounds

Because when it comes down to it, who doesn't want to get dressed up like their favourite superhero and pretend to have superpowers? If you said 'not me', I am

truly sorry for you. There is nothing quite as gratifying as wearing bright blue tights with red underwear over the top in public and *not* getting arrested for it. *Supanova* is a glorious celebration of all things pop culture, from anime, gaming, sci-fi and comic books.

D'ANGELO

21 MARCH

Sydney Opera House

D'Angelo is an aphrodisiac in the form of a concert. Take your girl, and not your mate, cos' things are going to get buttery - it's all that brown sugar baby. But in all seriousness, (I'm sorry to drop that on you), the man who was hailed as a major influence to Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp A Butterfly*, will make his Opera House debut this March with his powerhouse band in toe and you should try and be there.

BYRON BAY BLUESFEST

24 - 28 MARCH

Byron Bay, Australia

Byron Bay. That place with great surf breaks, babes with dreadlocks, buskers, hippies, Nimbin within arms reach and... *Byron Bay Bluesfest*. With over 20,000 attendees each day, and 200 performances over five days, it's no small feat. Considered one of the best on the planet, *Byron Bay Blues Fest* has turned into an old-school favourite of music aficionados around the world. So, if you're into your blues, soul, folk and rock, it's a safe bet. Just don't forget to pass the duchy to the left hand side.

TYGA - THE RAWEST ALIVE TOUR

14 APRIL

Adelaide Entertainment Centre

With a name like 'The Rawest Alive Tour', one



must expect this tour to be 'raw'. Like sex with no condom raw, uncooked chicken raw, sushi raw. Like, this pork is so raw, it's still singing 'hakuna matata' raw. And there is nothing more bad-ass than an arena full of screaming teens with their iPhones out, yelling at the top of their lungs getting freaky to 'Rack City', one of Tyga's most revered tracks. And how couldn't it be? With lyrics such as 'rack city bitch, rack, rack city bitch, ten ten twenties of ya titties bitch'. Elegant and poignant, this show is for the aficionados.



CASEY
AFFLECK

CHIWETEL
EJIOFOR

ANTHONY
MACKIE

AARON
PAUL

WITH WOODY
HARRELSON

AND KATE
WINSLET

A DEADLY HEIST
NEEDS A KILLER DISTRACTION

TRIPLE 9

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF **LAWLESS**

PRODUCED BY ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY AND STEVEN PICTURES PRESENTS AN ANTHEM PICTURES FILM A STEVEN SODERBERGH FILM "TRIPLE 9" CASEY AFFLECK CHIWETEL EJIOFOR ANTHONY MACKIE AARON PAUL CUSTON COLLINGS JR. NEERAVI REDDAR TERESA PALMER MICHAEL D. WILLIAMS GAIL O'NEILL AND WOODY HARRELSON AND KATE WINSLET CASTING BY LISA FREEDMAN COSTUME DESIGNER TERRY MCGHEE MUSIC BY PETROS ROSS CLAUDIO SARDI EDITOR JEFFREY KATZ EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAVID L. RAY AND STEVEN SODERBERGH PRODUCED BY STEVEN SODERBERGH AND DAVID L. RAY WRITTEN BY STEVEN SODERBERGH AND DAVID L. RAY DIRECTED BY STEVEN SODERBERGH

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THE DEBRIEF

EINSTEIN WAS RIGHT

100 YEARS LATER AND THANKS TO THE COLLISION OF TWO
BLACK HOLES OVER 1 BILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY, PHYSICISTS
HAVE FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM WHAT EINSTEIN
THEORISED ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

EINSTEIN'S GRAVITATIONAL WAVES ARE REAL

AFTER more than 100 years of searching, an international team of physicists has confirmed the existence of Einstein's gravitational waves. It is one of the biggest astrophysical discoveries of the past century.

"We have detected gravitational waves," Prof David Reitze, executive director of the LIGO project, told journalists at a news conference in Washington DC.

The discovery, which is a culmination of decades of searching, marks a monumental breakthrough in our quest to fully understand the nature of gravity. It was made possible

through collaboration between a number of labs around the world that use laser fired through tunnels to sense ripples in the fabric of space-time. The waves which they detected were just a fraction of an atom in width.

"Gravitational waves are akin to sound waves that travelled through space at the speed of light," says gravitational researcher David Blair, from the University of Western Australia. "Up to now humanity has been deaf to the universe. Suddenly we know how to listen. The Universe has spoken and we have understood."

WHERE DID THE GRAVITATIONAL WAVES COME FROM?

The physicists were able to trace a signal which came from the merger of two black holes over a billion years ago. The event was so massive that it warped space time enough so that the ripples could reach us, over one billion light years away. The merger radiated three times the mass of the sun in pure gravitational energy.



MAN DIES TRYING TO SWALLOW WHOLE CHEESEBURGER

And it has come to that point ladies and gentleman. The burger phenomena has hit a cheesy low after one man choked to death when he tried to swallow a whole cheeseburger in one bite while drinking at a friend's house.

He apparently told his friends to "watch this," before folding and stuffing the entire cheeseburger, according to one witness.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded. A sober reminder to us all that no matter how tasty, cheeseburgers are dangerous and can kill you if not eaten responsibly.

YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF FILTHY HAND SNIFFERS

If someone told you that after shaking someone's hand, they had to smell their own hand, what would you say to them? You would probably avoid any further contact with that person, right? Well I'm sorry to say, but according to scientific research into the matter, you and everyone else is guilty of doing that exact thing, you filthy hand sniffer.

A new scientific study has revealed that people unconsciously sniff their right hand after shaking it with others as part of a process to pick up chemical signals. "We started looking at people and noticed that afterwards, the hand somehow inadvertently reached the face," says Noam Sobel of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot.

To find out if people were smelling their hands, as opposed to scratching their nose, his team filmed 153 volunteers as they greeted members of their team. Some were wired up to psychological instruments that would record airflow to the nose, taking the necessary measurements.

Charles Wysocki at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, agrees. "It fits with the general idea that there is a lot more chemical communication going on that we are unaware of".

So don't worry, it's not like you're doing it on purpose, unless you're former Western Australian opposition leader, Troy Buswell. Pick up any useful signals, Troy?



YOU CAN NOW SELL AIR

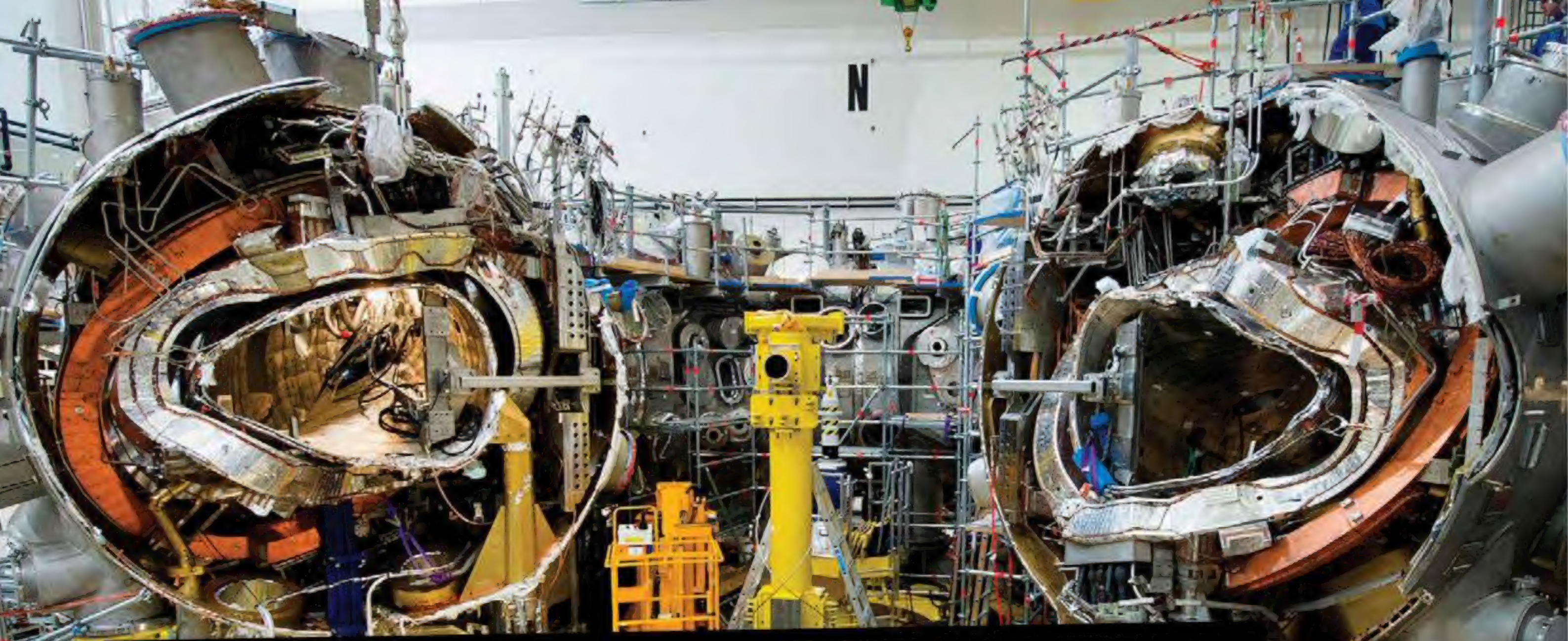
Yes, you read the headline correctly. People are now farming air and selling it to clients in polluted cities who are paying upward of \$160 for a single jar. The product is "cultivated" by, wait for it... *air farmers*.

The air is collected from specific areas under a certain set of circumstances, depending on the client's wishes, "sometimes we'll be at the top of mountain, other times at the bottom of a valley". Whilst other people want "air collected when it's very windy, some people want still night air."

China have been massive consumers of clean air, buying their canisters from Canadian company Vitality Air. Their website reads: "Vitality Air strives towards providing its customers with fresh, clean, portable, canned air and recreational oxygen in a can for breathing and enhancing health."

You can choose from Banff Air, Lake Louise Air or premium oxygen in either single or twin packs. A single 3L canister of Banff Air will cost you \$20, and provides "approximately 80 breaths of fresh Banff Air."

This is not a joke. We repeat, this is not a joke.



DROP EVERYTHING AND INVEST IN THIS

Germany, a country known for world firsts, has just dropped an absolute humdinger. German scientists recently switched on the largest nuclear fusion machine in the world. Cool but what does it do? Well, it produces large amounts of hydrogen plasma... Duh. Only joking, we don't actually expect you to know what it does.

The invention itself could literally change the world as we know it. And apart from having an awesome name (The Wendelstein 7-X stellarator), it also has the

ability to produce hydrogen plasma which is similar to harnessing the limitless energy of the sun. No, not like they did in *The Force Awakens*.

Basically, we'll have the ability to replace polluting fossil fuels and nuclear fission facilities. "It's a very clean source of power, the cleanest you could possibly wish for," physicist John Jelonnek from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, told the Associated Press. "We're not doing this for us, but for our children and grandchildren."



WIFE CRASHES HER OWN FUNERAL, HORRIFIES HUSBAND

Yes, you read it right. A woman has indeed crashed her own funeral and scared the shit out of her husband who, understandably, thought she was dead - why else would he be having a funeral after all?

The details? He paid three hitmen to have her killed. They kidnapped her, drove her to a remote location and tied her up. Before killing her they asked, "What have you done to your husband for him to want to kill you?". Apparently her answer was pretty convincing because they soon dropped her off on the side of a road and told her to "warn other women" so this doesn't happen. Fast forward a few days and old hubby is "mourning" at the funeral, when, out of nowhere appears his wife, still very much alive.

"Is it my eyes?" She recalled him saying. "Is it a ghost?"

"Surprise! I'm still alive!" She replied.

The man, who we can only assume is now her ex-husband, was visibly terrified. "I'm sorry for everything," he wailed. We bet you are buddy. We bet you are.



MAN THROWS ALLIGATOR INTO DRIVE-THROUGH WINDOW

And the winner for the most creative way to get charged with a deadly weapon goes to... a Florida man accused of throwing a live alligator through a restaurant's drive-through window.

A man threw a 1.07 metre alligator into a Wendy's drive through window. After he was caught, he admitted to picking it up off the side of the road before making his way to Wendy's, where he lobbed it through the window.

He's been described as an outdoorsman who views none other than the Aussie legend himself, Steve 'The Crocodile Hunter' Irwin, as an idol. "It was just a stupid prank that he did that's now turning into this; it's stupid," his mother told Washington Post. "He's a prankster. He does stuff like this because he thinks it's funny."

MICHIGAN SENATE PASSES BILL OUTLAWING ORAL AND ANAL SEX

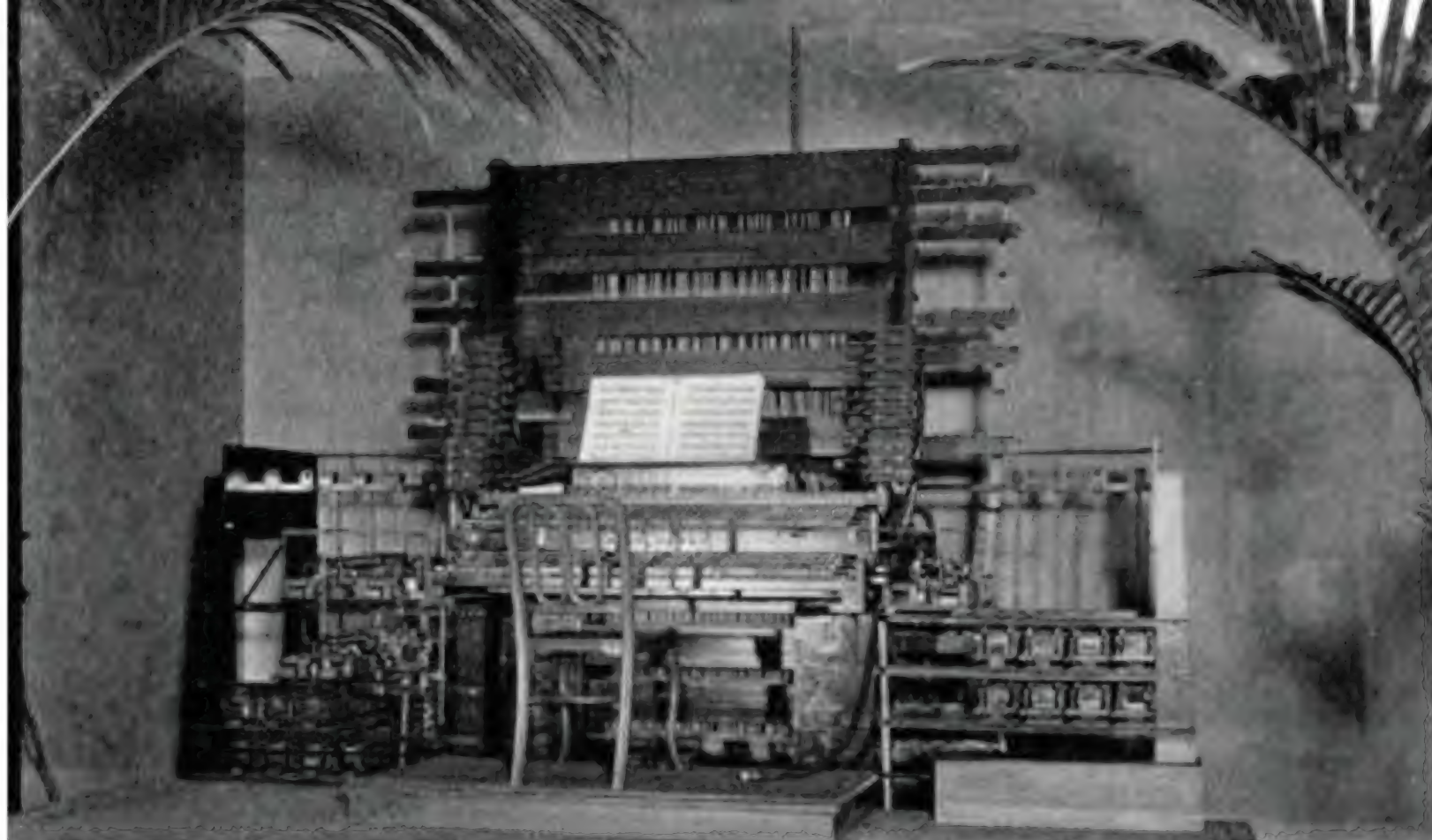
Michigan has just passed a bill which makes gay sex punishable by up to 15 years in prison. The bill, which puts sodomy on a level with bestiality, bans all forms of anal and oral sex - making it technically illegal to express homosexuality sexually.

"A person who commits the abominable and detestable crime against nature with mankind or with any animal is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for no more than 15 years," states the legislation.

Considering we get bent over by politicians on the regular, this bill should come as no surprise; however it is still a total load of shit. Don't despair, even if you can't express your sexuality in Michigan, you can still do the following in other states of the U.S.:

- Marry your cousin
- Have sex with some animals
- Eat another human being
- Throw missiles





THE FIRST MUSIC STREAMING SERVICE STARTED IN 1897

Once upon a time in a land far, far away, there existed no mobile phones, computers or internet. In what must've been a dark time for humanity, people were left to their own devices - such as their brains and books to entertain themselves.

And then in 1876 the telephone was invented, and the first words ever spoken "Mr. Watson come here I want to see you", by Alexander Bell, the inventor of the telephone. Raunchy stuff.

Then in 1897, the telharmonium was invented by lawyer Thaddeus Cahill. The 'Spotify' of 1897 utilised existing phone networks, broadcasting from a central hub in midtown manhattan to hotels, restaurants and homes around the city. Subscribers could pick up their phone, ask the operator to connect them to the telharmonium, and the wires of their phone line would be linked with the wires emerging from the telharmonium station.

However far from the automated, digital services of today, the music had to be manually generated.

If one were to venture to the music plant, or telharmonium hall as it was known, you would find 200 tonnes of machinery (necessary to generate the tunes), and humans, because they were required to play the specialised keyboards which generated the tunes.

"Apparently he had two players playing continuously, 24 hours a day," says Andy Cavatorta, a telharmonium enthusiast and sound artist who designed and built Bjork's gravity harps. "It was a sort of weird, non-stop eerie telharmonium music, including a lot of pieces that were composed just for the instrument." You could expect to hear symphonies, lullabies or other music, at the will of the players.

QR CODE ON KETCHUP BOTTLE LINKED TO hardcore porn site

Talk about saucy, Heinz was left red faced after a QR code on it's ketchup bottle led one man, Daniel Korell, to a hardcore porn site instead of the 'design your own bottle' competition page that he was trying to access.

The incident occurred after the original competition, held between 2012-2014 expired, and so too the website. The URL has since been picked up by German porn website Fundorado and the site once owned by Heinz, was replaced with porn.

Korell wrote on his Facebook page: "Your ketchup really isn't for underage people."

Heinz's social media team apologised and responded on Korell's Facebook image: "We really regret the event very much and we're happy to take your suggestions for how we implement future campaigns on board."

Fundorado, looking to capitalise on the situation and pick up some free advertising, also comment on the photo, and offered Korell a year's free subscription.



BABIES ARE BEING BORN WITH ABNORMALLY SMALL HEADS



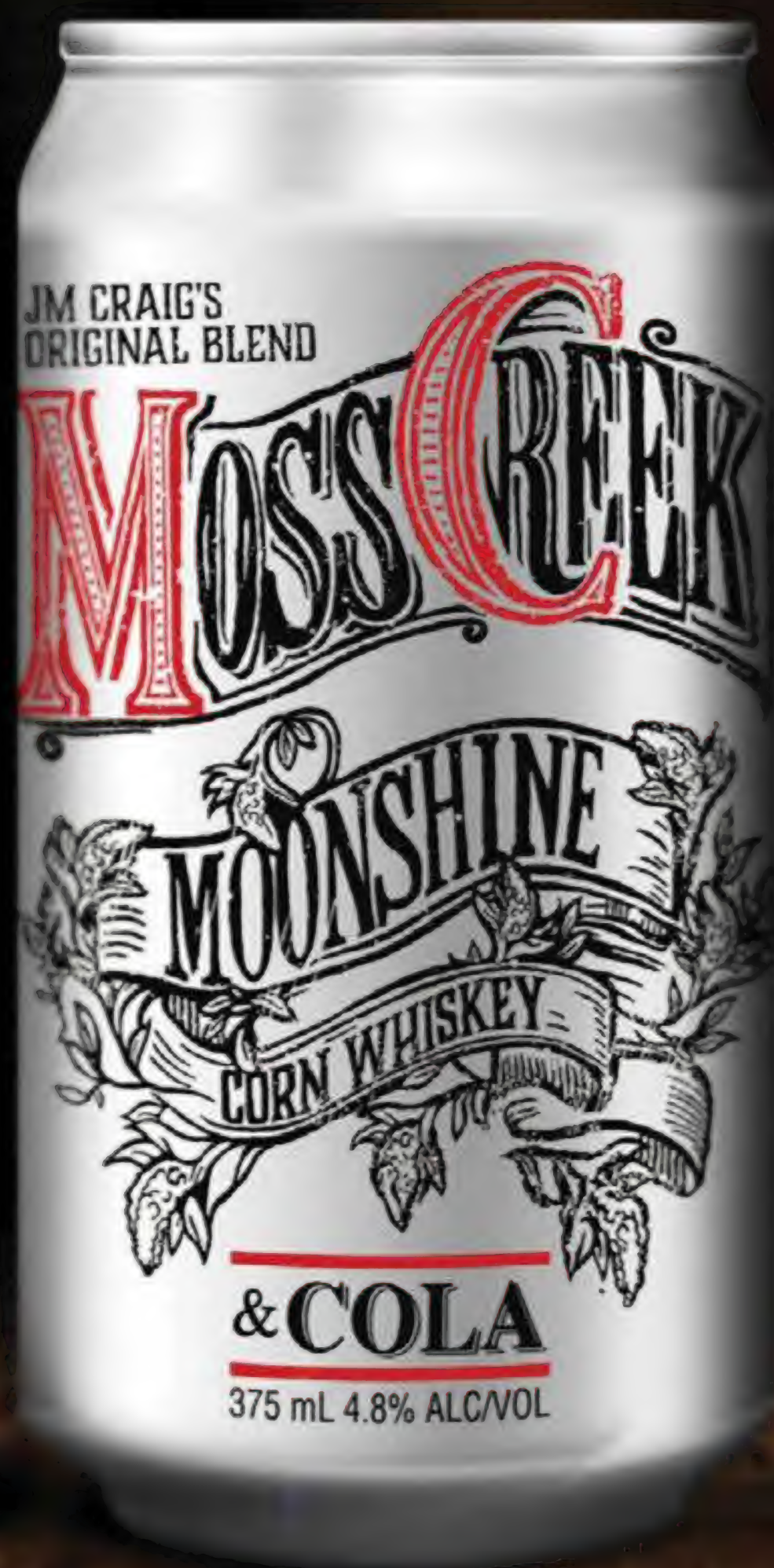
If you needed another reason to dislike mosquitoes, you just got one. Those winged annoyances that make you slap yourself, break out the Aerogard or lose a night's sleep because you *just can't find the damn thing*, have started spreading Zika, a mosquito-born virus.

If you're an adult, you don't have too much to worry about, unless you're pregnant. If contracted and passed onto an unborn child, Zika can result in abnormally small heads in newborns and is associated with other disorders such as decreased brain function. And you thought itchy bites were bad.

Zika was first identified in rhesus monkeys in the Zika forest in Uganda in 1947. Five years later, it was found in humans. The disease has now spread through most of the Americas.

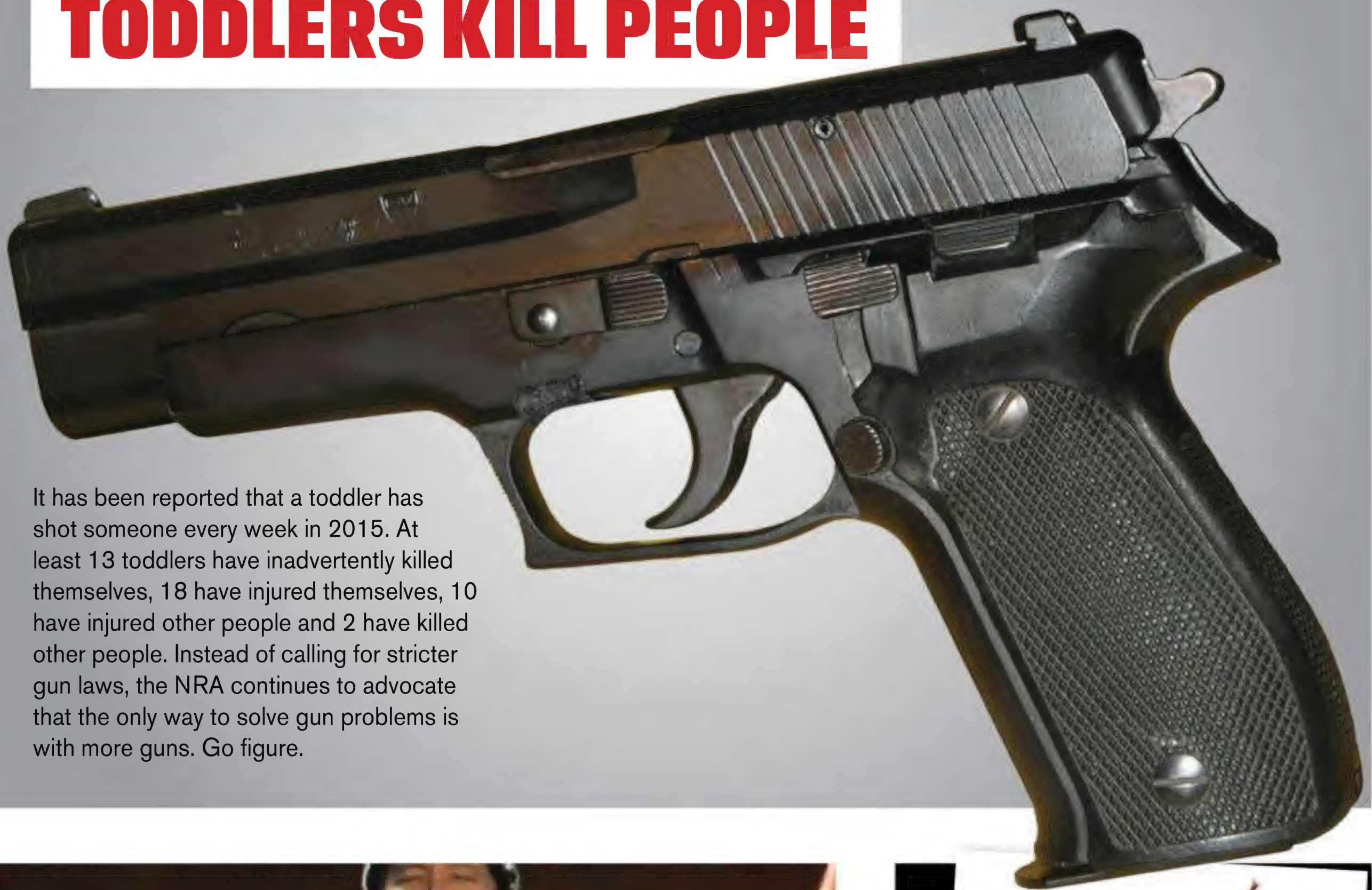
MOSS CREEK

The Kindred Spirit



Moss Creek Moonshine's rich southern heritage dates back to the early 1900's when John M. Craig produced his corn whiskey to celebrate times with friends and family. John's legend grew during the prohibition era and what was once a hobby soon became a way of life. Operating an old copper still on the edge of Moss Creek, South Carolina, he produced some of the best Moonshine east of the Mississippi. Moss Creek Moonshine - *The Kindred Spirit*

GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE, TODDLERS KILL PEOPLE



It has been reported that a toddler has shot someone every week in 2015. At least 13 toddlers have inadvertently killed themselves, 18 have injured themselves, 10 have injured other people and 2 have killed other people. Instead of calling for stricter gun laws, the NRA continues to advocate that the only way to solve gun problems is with more guns. Go figure.



PASTOR STEALS \$36 MILLION, FUNDS WIFE'S RAP CAREER

A pastor of a "mega-church" in Singapore, along with six others, stole \$36 million dollars in donations to help fund his wife's global rap career which would then be used to spread the word of God.

Known professionally as Sun Ho, she founded the church with her husband in 1989. Obviously things have been going pretty well for the church, not so well for Sun Ho's singing career which has seen her collaborate with the likes of Wyclef Jean. Unsurprisingly, some of her Youtube videos have become popular since the scandal broke, with over a million views on some.

And just to top it off, it is alleged that they used \$20 million dollars of the embezzled money to try and cover up the fact that they had stolen any money in the first place. Can I get a 'praise the Lord'?



WHAT ARE THOSE NOISES IN MY HEAD?

A 12-year-old Indian girl has an ant problem. Like a serious ant problem. And when we say serious, we mean she has an ant colony living inside her head. Despite repeat attempts to kill the colony, hundreds of them continue to live in her head, with a dozen or so emerging from her ears every-day. No thanks.



WHAT DO K-HOLES AND DEPRESSION HAVE IN COMMON?

Ever been in a deep hole that you just don't think you can climb out of? Yep, we've all been there, K-Holes. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, a 'K-Hole' is the slang term for a profound out-of-body experience that comes as an after effect of consuming a high dose of ketamine.

What you might not know is that Ketamine aka 'Special K', or 'K', is now being used to treat severe cases of depression with an 80% success rate. The mind altering drug is being hailed as a revolutionary treatment for those battling treatment resistant depression.

"The results are startling," says

Melbourne University neuroscientist Associate Professor Graham Barrett, who has been studying depression for 30 years.

"They're not 100 per cent, there are people who don't respond to ketamine, but the results are very, very good."

The discovery is being touted as the most significant advance in medical history in 50 years. And while ketamine treatments are still very expensive, the results speak for themselves.

Now if we could drop the 'war on drugs' so that we can continue to move forward without hindering such promising progress.

SCIENTISTS TEST MDMA ON MONKEYS

A group of scientists have injected three male, Long Tailed Macaques with MDMA to get a better understanding of how their brains' work. They found that when injected with MDMA, the monkeys become more social, foraged more and also relaxed - a lot. No raving or dance parties were reported.

Monkeys were given ecstasy twice a day for four days during the testing period. However, as you know, what goes up must come down, and one group of monkeys' brains were removed two weeks after the test for analysis - talk about a bad come down. Thankfully the other group of monkeys lived for an additional seven years before their brains were finally re-moved. Ouch.



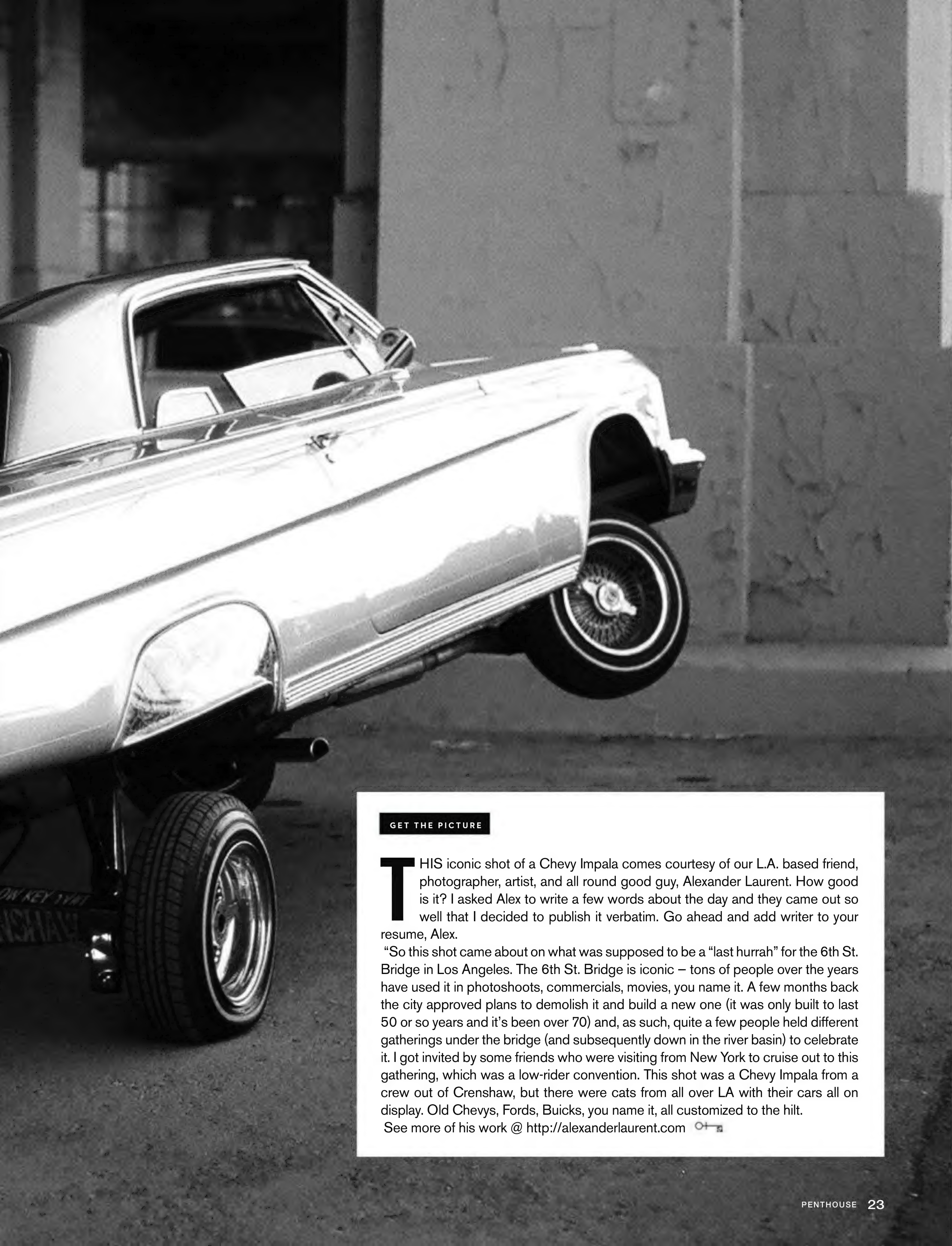
NESTLE CONTINUES TO BE EVIL



In what comes as a surprise to nobody, anywhere, under any circumstance, Nestle has reconfirmed their reputation as the bad guy after being found using child labour on their supply chains in Thailand. Suitably enough, they were fighting a child labour lawsuit in the Ivory Coast at the time they were caught. It's difficult vying for the world's most evil corporation, however, Nestle is clearly prepared to have a crack, (and not a break), as their Kit Kat would have you believe.

Jokes aside, children younger than 15 continue to work at sites connected to Nestle, decades after they promised to put an end to it. According to The Guardian, we've all been buying "products tainted with the blood and sweat of poor, unpaid and abused migrant workers". C'mon, Nestle, I didn't see that on my list of ingredients.





GET THE PICTURE

THIS iconic shot of a Chevy Impala comes courtesy of our L.A. based friend, photographer, artist, and all round good guy, Alexander Laurent. How good is it? I asked Alex to write a few words about the day and they came out so well that I decided to publish it verbatim. Go ahead and add writer to your resume, Alex.

“So this shot came about on what was supposed to be a “last hurrah” for the 6th St. Bridge in Los Angeles. The 6th St. Bridge is iconic – tons of people over the years have used it in photoshoots, commercials, movies, you name it. A few months back the city approved plans to demolish it and build a new one (it was only built to last 50 or so years and it’s been over 70) and, as such, quite a few people held different gatherings under the bridge (and subsequently down in the river basin) to celebrate it. I got invited by some friends who were visiting from New York to cruise out to this gathering, which was a low-rider convention. This shot was a Chevy Impala from a crew out of Crenshaw, but there were cats from all over LA with their cars all on display. Old Chevys, Fords, Buicks, you name it, all customized to the hilt.

See more of his work @ <http://alexanderlaurent.com> 




CRUSH

MARGOT ROBBIE

WE have a massive crush on Margot Robbie. She is incredible. She's an Australian actress who know from that show Neighbours. We won't judge you if you used to watch it, can't say the same if you still do...

Margot Robbie was born in Queensland; hands down the best thing the state has ever done for Australia. She starred in Wolf of Wall Street where, during the audition, she slapped co-star Leo. That clearly impressed him, she ended up landing the roll. You go girl. She played Ann Burden in 'Z for Zacharia' and she's appearing in 'Legend of Tarzan' later this year, but what we're really excited about is her role in Suicide Squad, where she'll play dangerous super villain Harley Quinn. What a dream girl!

You're welcome to come say hi at the office any time, Margot. 



VINYL

MUSIC FROM THE HBO® ORIGINAL SERIES
VOLUME 1



THE RENAISSANCE MAN

MEET THE MAN WHO WANTS TO COLONISE MARS
AND REVOLUTIONISE THE WAY YOU MOVE.

READING through a list of Elon Musk's achievements can be an intimidating exercise. Mars bound rockets, futuristic cars, the *Hyperloop* – he is doing so much that it almost makes you feel bad. While I'm sitting on the couch, pondering my navel and switching between Facebook and the TV, Musk is spending his week either testing and designing rockets, or developing the future of automotive transport. Way to make the rest of us look bad, *Elon*. It's somewhat of a consolation, I suppose, that Musk's overall goal is to launch humanity into the Space Age and colonise Mars. So while he may make us look bad in comparison, it's good to know he's got our collective backs.

We are always told that we have in us the potential to do incredible things. It may seem trite and platitudinal, but it's true, that as humans we have a drive to make an impact, alter our environment and leave a legacy that is as innate as our drive for food, sex and shelter. Every day we leave our small marks upon the world – and in our own way, we leave this place a little different (and hopefully better) than the way we found it. Most of us won't change the world in a profound way. But Elon Musk might.

After making a fortune as the major shareholder and founder of PayPal, Musk turned his sights to bigger things. Not content with simply being a multi-millionaire Silicon Valley investor, Musk

and while colonising Mars is a very cool idea – it isn't exactly bringing in a lot of dollars just yet. As a consequence, Musk almost experienced financial demise in 2008, after his electric car company Tesla was failing to make cheap, reliable vehicles and three SpaceX rockets had failed to launch. One has to respect the man's belief in his own vision and his ability to see it through to the end; when his companies began to fail, Musk invested the remainder of his millions into Space X, leaving him and his family broke, having to rely on loans from friends to get by. Thankfully, in a fateful turn of events, NASA awarded SpaceX a \$1.6 Billion contract. This was not only a windfall for Musk, but for the rest of humanity. Whilst he is firmly focused on aiding NASA ferry astronauts to and from the International Space Station – his ultimate goal is to develop technology that will lead human kind to colonise Mars. Why? Because as Elon Musk so poignantly put it – 'Fuck Earth'.

His opinion of Earth aside, Musk is motivated to work out some of our more terrestrial problems. His electric car company, Tesla, has already successfully created a run of commercially available electric cars. For decades, electric cars have been a pipe dream - not fast or efficient enough. Tesla's stylish vehicles, however, have a top speed of around 250 km/h and are designed to run on


THE *HYPERLOOP* IS BASICALLY THE SAME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT GEORGE USES TO GET TO AND FROM WORK IN THE JETSONS

focused his ambitions on space. Initially the plan was to buy rockets from a Russian rocket manufacturing company and propel a greenhouse, replete with crops, onto the surface of Mars. He felt this would encourage the public to once again become passionate about space travel.

After arguing over the high price tag and being mocked by the Russian rocket scientists, Musk reportedly stormed out of the meeting. However, like some kind of real life Tony Stark, on a plane ride back to the US (this guy does not waste time) Musk hatched a plan to build his *own* rockets. In a moment that I can only assume involved equations, floating diagrams and neural synapses montaging in front of Musk's eyes, he concluded that raw materials for rockets could be acquired for a fraction of the sales price, and thus it would be cheap enough for him to simply make his own. This led to him investing a huge portion of his money into founding SpaceX – a rocket manufacturing company with the long-term goal of creating a 'true spacefaring civilisation'.

It should be understood that investing in rocket technology is usually the realm of governments, not private entities. Unsurprisingly, rockets are very expensive to manufacture

Musk's Supercharger network, where Tesla owners can speed-charge their cars for free. The vehicles come with a few features for the geekily inclined – a Bioweapon Defence button that filters air inside the car to medical standard (a feature that Musk only half-jokingly says could be utilised in the event of a zombie apocalypse) and a Ludicrous Speed button, which jacks the car's acceleration to do zero to sixty in 2.8 seconds.

The most recent development from Musk's mind is definitely the most imaginative. The *Hyperloop* is basically the same transportation system that George uses to get to and from work in *The Jetsons*. Musk came up with idea whilst stuck in traffic and became so excited that he shot his mouth off in an interview, claiming that the *Hyperloop* would one day be the 'fifth mode of transport'. Musk would later regret speaking up, citing that "I still have to run SpaceX and Tesla, and it's fucking hard." Nonetheless, he published a paper detailing exactly how the *Hyperloop* might work. There was some initial criticism; however, overwhelmingly the idea has been received well. Well enough that there are already two companies with hundreds of employees attempting to make Musk's vision into a reality. 



MUSIC

BLANK REALM

DANIEL Spencer says his band writes songs together, getting in a room and capturing the final version on perhaps the fifth take. “We usually don’t play it through too many times before we record it because it kind of loses that energy.”

It’s surprising to hear Blank Realm can achieve their precise, hypnotic repetition with such a spontaneous process. This rare ability comes from playing together since 2006, and from their members being siblings Daniel, Sarah and Luke Spencer, along with childhood friend Luke Walsh.

They began as an experimental, avant-garde pop group, playing in warehouses, house shows and the windows of small art galleries in Brisbane. Their shift from improvised noise to more conventional rock n’roll saw them emerge to minor prominence with *Go Easy* in 2013. *Grassed Inn* followed in 2014 and was shortlisted for the Australian Music Prize.

Simply there is no other band like them in Australia. Their style is wild and high energy, a whirlwind of krautrock disco. We hear melodic echoes of The Go Betweens and The Triffids, driven along by guitar, bass, keytar synths and deadbeat call and response vocal harmonies between Sarah and Daniel.


Their live show is renowned for whipping audiences into a frenzy with never-ending dance rhythms and psychedelic freak-outs. Daniel’s simplistic drumming is key. He readily admits that he’s not really a

drummer. With abilities limited to just a few patterns, they fall into mesmeric loops that lend power to the guitar lines of Luke Walsh.

Illegals In Heaven dropped in early 2015, and the singles *River Of Longing* and *Palace Of Love* have added new power to BR’s oeuvre of festival anthems. The album is their most celebrated to date, and garnered a second consecutive nomination for Double J Australian Artist Of The Year.

Blank Realm spent much of 2015 touring the United States and Europe, following a surreal appearance at Glastonbury Festival in the UK in 2014. Daniel told me the band loved the medieval atmosphere of being in the general area of Stonehenge. “I think it was about 5pm and we were on a smaller stage. But it rained heaps which helped to get people into the dance. I think the band after us was like a Smiths cover band and they had a much bigger crowd. It was fun.”

Revered heroes in their hometown of Brisbane, in earlier days there was a time that Daniel believed audiences had seen enough of them. “The way we learnt to even play was just playing shows and never saying no to a show. I think one year we did like 100 shows and most of them were in Brisbane so people probably got pretty sick of us.”


This cult local favourite has shown no signs of slowing down, spilling out tremendous and influential records that are driving the creative direction and energy of Australian music through this decade. 

PENTHOUSE TOP 3


ANIMAL COLLECTIVE - PAINTING WITH

The lords of avant-garde electro-pop reunite on their first album since the uneasy and experimental *Centipede Hz* of 2012, which split from the easy going pop of *Merriweather Post Pavilion* of 2009. Noah Lennox has achieved a solo notoriety that rivals the band, collaborating with Sonic Boom from Spacemen 3 on *Panda Bear Meets The Grim Reaper* in 2015. *Painting With* is a test of whether they can still discover new sonic territories together. Overt similarities to former tropes, as suggested on the single *FloriDada*, may diminish their status as creative leaders, 10 years after their revolutionary production of *Feels* and *Sung Tongs*.

IGGY POP - POST POP DEPRESSION

Iggy Pop, frontman of The Stooges, is almost 70 years old and says this collaboration with Josh Homme from Queens Of The Stone Age is probably his final record. If this proves true, it’s compelling to note that the *Gardenia* single and his vocal performance sound like a Bowie tune. A release set just months after David Bowie’s death and final album, *Blackstar*, is a strange twist of fate and connection between two lifelong friends. The spirit and energy of Iggy Pop has remained fiery, amused and undiminished.

PJ HARVEY - THE HOPE SIX DEMOLITION PROJECT

Let *England Shake* from 2011 is the artistic high point of PJ Harvey’s career, a concept album about suffering, nationhood and grief during World War I. Advances from her new record show her band has thankfully remained in place. Their intensity, blissful balance of production and emotive performance will meet a nomadic, human interest in places including Afghanistan, Kosovo and Washington DC.

FILM

LEO IS ALREADY AN ALL-AMERICAN BADASS

IT'S easy to get caught up in the buzz surrounding the Academy Awards, and joking about Leonardo DiCaprio's many near misses with those shiny, androgynous gold-boys is virtually a national pastime at this point. But let's get serious for a moment – the man simply doesn't need one.

Leo doesn't need validation from the Society of Rich People Patting Each Other on the Back - a collective who openly admit that they hardly ever even watch the films they're voting on. He doesn't need a statue from film snobs who've systematically snubbed him for the past 22 years, while handing out awards to disappointing Oscar bait flicks. In 2014 he was snubbed yet again for his role in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, but why should he care? He doesn't need the approval of the attendees of the Hollywood meat parade for the world to know he's a certified don.

The result of this year's Oscars isn't important. Handing him a trophy because he's been putting the hard yards in for a year, isn't going to undo the Academy's repeated neglect of a living legend.


His greatest achievement isn't his acting career anyway - it's his ongoing 27-year stint as an infamous party boy. A founding member of "the Pussy Posse", and long rumoured fan of insane sex-capades, the man is no stranger to success in Hollywood, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes – a fact that a gold statue, which is probably made out of cheap plastic, will never be able to reflect.

Sure, winning an Oscar would be nice - but what's to say Leo will continue his incredible acting streak once he's won? If he gets an Oscar, he will literally have every important film award that he's eligible for – what if it's the unattainability of the miniature gold knight that drives Leo to



A FOUNDING MEMBER OF "THE PUSSY POSSE", AND LONG RUMOURED FAN OF INSANE SEX-CAPADES, THE MAN IS NO STRANGER TO SUCCESS IN HOLLYWOOD

succeed. Sean Penn, Nicolas Cage, and Al Pacino all won Academy Awards and look at them now... do we really want Leo to be relegated to the world of straight-to-video action flicks and cameo appearances in Adam Sandler movies?

Not winning an Oscar is a great career move for DiCaprio. Leo doesn't need the validation of a bunch of boring, obsolete geriatrics who probably still have butlers and servants, to know he wore dirt well and grunted good in *The Revenant* – the Academy can keep their award. Leo already knows he's an all-American badass and doesn't need some pity statue to remind him of that fact. 



WEB OF INTRIGUE

SELLING YOUR PRIVACY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

FOR those of you who don't know (you should), the TPP or Trans-Pacific Partnership is a new U.S.-led Free Trade Agreement. It is extremely complicated and we don't really know much about it because it has been negotiated in secret.

We've been told that everyone is going to benefit from it, great! So why then has it been negotiated in secret... for the last 4 years?

It will likely impact you, your rights online, as well as a bunch of other stuff. So what is everyone else saying about it? Well, there are two distinct narratives taking place:

Those for the TPP

Backers of the TPP include a swathe of wealthy CEO's - Rupert Murdoch, Steven Schwarzman, Goldman Sachs and John Paulson - the Republican mega-donor who made an alleged \$3.7 billion from... wait for it - the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, but we've been assured we have nothing to worry about (sound familiar?). We've been told the TPP will promote higher labour standards, protect the environment, protect food safety standards and lower drug costs. However that's just one side of the story.

Those Against It

On the other side of the fence there is a very different narrative. Millions of people

from around the world continue to stand firmly in opposition to the TPP. They argue that it prioritises financial interest over privacy, human rights and free speech - it's a suffocating infringement on personal liberties disguised as a Free Trade Agreement.

What we know so far (which isn't much - and is only thanks to Wikileaks) is pretty bad. To put it simply, the stakes are high and if passed, foreign corporations will have the ability to sue governments if they believe a country's laws unfairly diminish their profits.

For example; the Australian government could get sued for billions for making changes to mining law, or fracking law, because corporations decide that it's damaging their profit margins. Essentially, corporate interests will be protected over public and environmental interests, and it seems that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Here are the top reasons why you should be worried about the TPP

Negotiations Have Been In Secret

All we know about the TPP is thanks to information provided by Wikileaks. Other than that, everything has been kept secret. So secret that members of Congress, state governors, the press, and the public are not allowed to see drafts of the agreement. This extends to Australia, where those involved in the negotiations are not allowed to reveal


anything to the public. It raises the question: if we don't have anything to worry about, then why isn't it more transparent?

The Internet

Do you download things illegally off the internet? You might want to think again. If the TPP is passed, ISP's will be forced to hand over the details of individuals (such as you) who have broken copyright law. Companies will have the ability to enforce heavy-handed criminal sanctions and fines, even for unintentional copyright infringement.

If the TPP is ratified you could be threatened with fines anywhere from \$10,000 to \$100,000, just for downloading a movie..

Greater Corporate Control

The laws of entire nations could be thrown under the bus. For example, cigarette company Philip Morris didn't like it when Australia passed its plain packaging law - because screw you and your health. So they went to court and sued. Tens of millions of dollars in taxpayers money was used to defend the decision, which was ultimately upheld. If the TPP were ratified, however, Australia would be exposed to similar litigation and would have a diminished ability to protect its national interests. Along these lines, the TPP has the potential to undermine national sovereignty in favor of corporate profits. 

TECH

NASA TO BROADCAST MARS EXPEDITIONS

IN October 2015, NASA released around 8,400 high-res images taken during the Apollo 11 Moon landings. This documentation was inconvenient for conspiracy theorists that for decades have been using official photographs to claim the landings were a fraud.

If NASA fulfills their goal to send humans to Mars by 2030, there will be less chance of such theories taking hold. Virtual reality will provide compelling first hand evidence of a mind-blowing achievement, with a global audience numbering in the billions riding along with astronauts, exploring the Martian surface in a 360-degree augmented reality.

Dr Jeff Norris is Mission Operations Innovation Lead at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He was a keynote speaker at Vision Summit 2016, where leading innovators in virtual reality gathered in Hollywood, California in February.

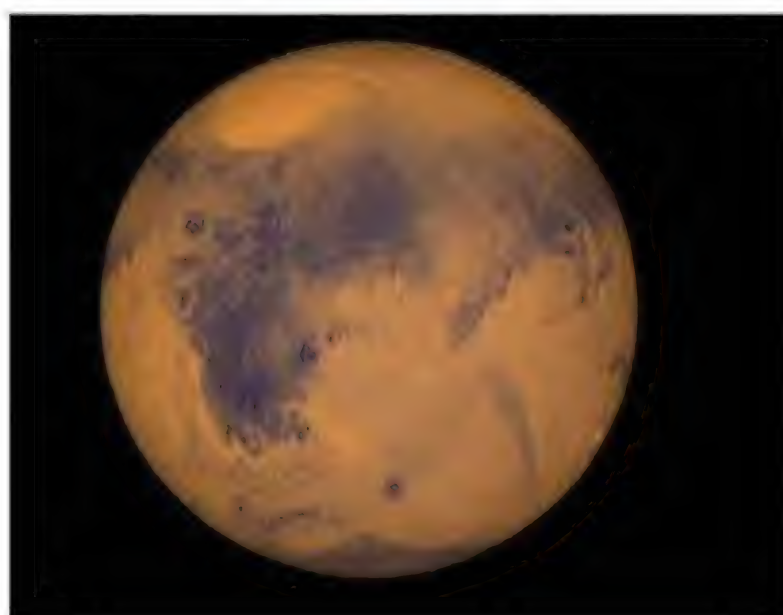
"The arrival of astronauts on Mars will be one of the greatest accomplishments of our generation," said Norris in his speech. "But on that amazing day the astronauts will not be the only ones exploring. They will be supported by hundreds or even thousands of virtual astronauts. Call them telenauts, who are exploring alongside them."

"Our astronauts will look upon that alien landscape with their own eyes. But telenauts will see it from every possible perspective and angle and wavelength offered by all the robots, spacecraft, aircraft and the astronauts on that expedition."

In his speech, Norris announced NASA's future intentions to train regular people as telenauts, exploring virtual environments built out of composite images taken by satellites above Mars and rovers on the surface. Mass numbers of telenauts, defined as "one who explores from a distance," will speed up the process of visually screening Mars. A crowd-sourced approach will allow contributors to mark points of interest for later investigation by scientists.




THIS NEW ADVANCE ALLOWS THEM TO VIRTUALLY TRANSMIT THEMSELVES ONTO THE MARTIAN SURFACE



The VR system is called OnSight and is already in live use at NASA, where it was developed through partnership with Microsoft. Scientists have been reviewing images transmitted from Mars rovers on their computer screens since the late '90s. This new advance allows them to virtually transmit themselves onto the Martian surface, examining geological features and collaborating with colleagues in real time.

Beyond visual exploration, these virtual and augmented realities are allowing scientists to streamline the construction process of spacecraft and instruments. This has the potential to reduce the risk and cost of future missions, as well as helping to meet launch dates by reducing construction times.

Dr Norris' team is at the cutting edge of VR innovation for space exploration – designing tools to control the Curiosity Mars Rover, improving robot-human interaction, and also assisting activities for astronauts on the International Space Station.

When imagining the future of telenauts, it's hard to conceive the clarity and resolution of images that will be achievable by the 2030s. Moore's law dictates that computer power doubles approximately every two years. This doesn't relate to camera sensors, which are analogue instruments. Nevertheless, it will be possible to simply build bigger sensors with supercharged digital processors to send to Mars. 

PROFESSIONAL GAMERS ARE MAKING MORE THAN YOU!



WHAT do League of Legends, Counter Strike: GO, DOTA and Starcraft all have in common? If you said games, you are correct. But what do you know about the world of E-Sports? A sports industry that sends competitive gamers around the world to play in video game tournaments, with millions of dollars' worth in prize money to be won.

E-Sports is one of the fastest growing sport industries in the world. Enormous prize pools and lucrative sponsorship deals have taken it far beyond the realm of an occasional escape from reality to some of the largest sporting arenas in the world. Pro-gamers would have you believe they are akin to professional athletes, practicing for hours a day and weeks at time.

Just last year, League of Legends, a game where teams of 3 or 5 players seek to destroy each other's bases whilst fighting for control of a map, held it's 2015 World Championship at LA's Staples Centre - home of the Lakers' and Clippers. The tickets sold out within an hour of the event being posted - the total prize pool was over \$18 million.

The fans are dedicated to say the least. In 2014, the Electronic Sports

E-SPORTS TOP EARNERS

Clinton 'Fear' Loomis

\$1,735,983.84

Kurtis 'Aui_2000' Ling

\$1,881,147.04 from 47 tournaments.

Peter 'ppd' Dager

\$1,961,183.29 from 33 tournaments.

Saahil 'UNIVeRsE' Arora

\$1,964,038.64 from 39 tournaments.



League (ESL) had a staggering 73,000 attendees at a four day tournament in Katowice - and it continues to grow. On Twitch alone (an online TV channel dedicated to gaming) 860,000 people watched the CS:GO finals (a fast paced, strategic 5v5 first person shooter). Overall, the tournament drew almost 9 million unique visitors and 16 million hours watched. There are now 205 million people globally that watch E-Sports. South Korea even has a TV channel devoted to E-Sports.

In 2015, the International Dota 2 Championship had a prize pool of over \$18 million, with the first place winners taking home a cool \$6 million. A new study has revealed that going into 2017, E-Sports looks to generate \$465 million annually, making it the 7th biggest market in terms of volume - bigger than both golf and rugby. And yes, you can bet on it. Recently, an E-Sports championship in China witnessed a higher betting volume than a top Premier League soccer game.

Not bad for pushing a few buttons and looking at a screen. So next time you give shit to your mates, or kids for playing too many video games, just remember that they could be millionaires one day.

SACHA BARON COHEN

GRIMSBY

FROM THE MAN BEHIND *BORAT*, *BRUNO* AND *THE DICTATOR*



COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ISTAR CAPITAL AND VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A FOUR BY TWO FILMS WORKING TITLE / BIG TALK PICTURES PRODUCTION A FILM BY LOUIS LETERRIER
"GRIMSBY" GABRIEL YEBRA SACHA BARON COHEN AND DAVID BUCKLEY COSTUME DESIGNER PACO DELGADO EDITOR JAMES THOMAS JONATHAN AMOS AGE PRODUCTION KATE QUINN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OLIVER WOOD EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LOUISE ROSNER MEYER TODD SCHULMAN PHIL JOHNSTON PETER BAYNHAM JAMES BIDDLE ERIC FELLNER TIM DEVAN ANT HINES ADAM MCKAY BEN WAISBREN
STORY BY SACHA BARON COHEN & PHIL JOHNSTON SCREENPLAY BY SACHA BARON COHEN & PHIL JOHNSTON & PETER BAYNHAM PRODUCED BY SACHA BARON COHEN NIRA PARK DIRECTED BY LOUIS LETERRIER



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sexual humour
and nudity



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IN CINEMAS MARCH 10



BUSTED

PELL-O-PHILIA

IT'S sad that we no longer find the systemic grooming and abuse of children within the Catholic Church a surprise. The image of the 'paedophile priest' is so firmly engrained in our collective cultural minds to the point that jokes about priests and their unsavoury predilections are as common place as those about blondes and their lack of intellect and common sense.

What's wrong with Catholic Priest jokes?

Catholic Priests don't think they're funny, and nobody else thinks they're jokes.

But does it really come as a surprise that a collective of sexually repressed males who dedicate their lives to revering a purportedly magic Jew and his borderline psychotic father aren't normal, trustworthy citizens?

Unfortunately for the victims of childhood sexual abuse, our trust in the clergy, and the absolute lack of moral fibre of those who have perpetrated these heinous crimes, have destroyed their chance at a normal and healthy life.

The latest chapter in this tragic and seemingly never-ending story takes place close to home and involves our very own

Cardinal George Pell.

Pell has been 'called home' to face a royal commission enquiry into child sex abuse in the Ballarat Diocese while he was a senior priest in the area. It is alleged that Pell not only aided in covering up instances of sexual abuse in the church, through bribery, and through moving known sex-offenders to different dioceses, but that he himself had participated in the abuse of a


PELL IS NOW REFUSING TO COME OUT OF HIS HIDEY-HOLE IN THE VATICAN TO FACE THE VICTIMS AND THE ROYAL COMMISSION IN PERSON

young boy back in the 1960's.

Pell is now refusing to come out of his hidey-hole in the Vatican to face the victims and to face the Royal Commission in person, citing a 'medical condition' that would prevent him from flying. He made a similar claim last December, to get out of another hearing, again citing a medical condition, backed up by a note from his own private doctor. Of course, just a month prior, he left Rome to go to France and visit some WWI

battlefields, his health problems, obviously only an issue in Australia.

Pell has been called out by the media and more recently by comedy songwriter, Tim Minchin for obvious cowardice and his refusal to face the victims of the abuse that he and his organisation allowed to be perpetrated. He will give his testimony from within the comfort of the high walls of the Vatican, but the victims will not give up

in their pursuance of justice. A GoFundMe campaign has exploded online to raise money for the victims to fly to Rome and sit in the same room as Pell while he is gives evidence. We can only hope that the accusatory glares of so many who have been so wronged by the Church will force Pell to finally 'see the light' and repent right there and then. Unfortunately, there's a snowflakes chance in hell of that ever happening. 

POLITICS

CURFEWS, PROHIBITION AND THE MYTH OF ALCOHOL FUELLED VIOLENCE

JUST when we thought no one could do it quite like Mitchell Pierce, Mike Baird has sprung from the shadows and showed him how to really screw the pooch, though not quite so literally. The fallout from Baird's defence of Sydney's lock out laws, coming in response to Matt Barrie's articulate and entertaining essay, has been considerable. We're probably talking about the social media fail of the year. With one Facebook post Baird has managed to incur not only the wrath of the general public, but leading Australian musicians, the Sydney hospitality industry, Matt Barrie (again) and the Bureau of Crime Statistics.

Baird has, unwisely, made his argument using misleading statistics, reporting a 58% fall in alcohol related violence but neglecting to mention an alleged 80% fall in foot traffic. These statistics, when read together, suggest that while there is less violence overall, for those enjoying a night out under the lock out laws, the chance of falling victim to alcohol induced violence is actually higher. The statistic Baird quoted on the number of small bars doubling since the lock out laws were introduced is also misleading, with the current sample coming from a much larger area than that of the previous one, which was taken back in 2012.


Baird's commitment to stopping violence, and his faith in the lock out laws to achieve this, has also been undermined by his refusal to add The Star casino to the lock out area. While venues like The Ivy and Home Nightclub have been announced as the most violent venues in recent years, a Bureau of Crime Statistics study recently showed The Star was most likely New South Wales'

most violent venue in 2015. Even more striking than this is the hole that has been left in the lock out area map where the soon to be completed Crown Casino will stand. Once it is completed, the casino will stand only metres from the lock out zone. It will be like going from Miami to Cuba during prohibition, except all you have to do is cross the road.

It seems that Baird, through his own failure to adequately respond to Barrie's well written piece, has had his true motives exposed. A businessman masquerading as a representative of the people. Should the results of the enquiry into the lock out laws return a recommendation that they be removed and/or replaced with other violence-reducing methods, Baird will be looking down the barrel of a gun. He's already stated that it would take a lot to have him even consider removing the laws. However, it's looking more and more like he has decided to plump for an unpopular law enacted by his predecessor and will now stubbornly refuse to admit he has backed the wrong horse. Then again, for a man so obsessed with his image, he

may actually be smart enough to suck in his pride and rescind the laws, and look into measures that will actually combat the issue with which we are dealing.

And this is the most frustrating part of the lock out and the heavy restrictions on purchasing alcohol, both in bars and bottle shops. The fact is, we do not have an issue with alcohol, we have an issue with violence. Governments may argue that restricting the sale of alcohol and heavily taxing its sale are necessary to keep violence down. This is easily disproved looking at a country like Germany. Alcohol is readily available, from supermarkets and convenience stores as well as restaurants and bars, and at low cost. Despite this, Berlin's famous clubs stay open all hours without a high level of alcohol related violence. Similarly, in other European countries, such as France and Italy, alcohol related violence is not a big issue.

We are yet to pinpoint where exactly our problem with violence comes from, yet we can say that, as a culture, we definitely have one. 





KING OF THE UNDERDOGS

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, WE'LL HAVE WITNESSED
THE RISE OF A KING, OR THE FALL OF A STAR.

EVERY now and then someone or something comes along that fundamentally changes the status quo. The Hubble Telescope changed the way we view the universe bringing us closer to our cosmic origins. Synthesis did much the same with music, creating an infinite number of experiential possibilities that changed the aural experience forever. And now, Conor McGregor. His controversial and rapid rise to UFC dominance in 2015 has changed the way we perceive the athlete.

Born into a modest family in South Dublin, McGregor was just another guy looking to make ends meet when on one rainy day, an MMA tournament came to town. From that moment he was hooked and started training. Fast forward 8 years. McGregor now stands tall as the UFC featherweight champion of the world. Not bad considering he picked up his last dole check just days before his first professional fight.

Now he's unashamedly loaded and he's not afraid to tell it how it is. Maybe it's his Irish background, or, perhaps he kissed the blarney stone one too many times, but McGregor is a loose-tongued, scrappy bastard and a six pack of Guinness. He's a promoters dream and his opponent's worst nightmare. He'll get inside your head and never let go. He's fearless, brazen and brash with his insults. But most of all he's a whole bunch of fun to watch.

Conor McGregor floats like a brick and stings like a train. He predicts fights with prophetic accuracy and taunts his opponents with a ferocity usually

HERE IS SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MCGREGOR TRASH TALK

"He's a quiet little hillbilly from the back ass of nowhere. His cousin is probably named Cletus."
- McGregor didn't think much of Louisianan Dustin Poirier, whom he beat in September 2014.

"I'm your father, I'm your daddy yeah. Call me Jose Sr."

- To Jose Aldo, the featherweight champion at the time before their fight. McGregor knocked him out in 13 seconds.

"I don't just knock them out, I pick the round."
- Referring to his uncanny ability to pick the round in which he'll knock his opponents out.

"These custom-made suits aren't cheap. This solid gold pocket watch, three people died making this watch. I need to put people away. I need those big fights. I'm going to end up in debt pretty fast."
- To anybody listening.

reserved for the King of the Jungle.

McGregor stands for something bigger than himself. Sure, he's loud, boisterous and brash, but he's also ambitious, a dreamer and a self-proclaimed mama's boy. He's managed to tap into our collective imagination, making us believe, even if only for a little, that anything is possible. And that's the beauty in individuals like McGregor, who comes along only every so often. They make us believe in the potential of pushing beyond the mundane, the everyday - like folklore heroes, they make us believe in something bigger than ourselves.

By the time you read this, we will have witnessed the rise of a king, or the fall of a star. McGregor is already a king, but he's also a villain to many. In particular, Brazilian fans of the renowned José Aldo, who McGregor managed to knockout after only 13 seconds in the ring. Could the prophecy be true? Can he do what everyone says he can't?

McGregor is in indisputable form, as is his next opponent Nate Diaz. The stakes are high. Diaz is an absolute menace - a well-oiled machine operating at its peak. He steam rolls his opponents like a freight train on amphetamines, and he's got McGregor firmly in his sights. But McGregor's been the underdog before, he's in his element, he's inside Diaz's head, it's familiar territory.

Can he win? It's the big question - McGregor is set to make half a million dollars for the fight. He's breaking records on all accounts, and now he's looking to consolidate his status as a champion. He's ambitious, he's bold - but McGregor has never been any different.



how do you like it?

PURE or DIRTY?

AUSTRALIA'S NO 1 CRAFT VODKA

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PURE TASMANIAN VODKA

TASMANIA, a pristine island that sits below the rugged coastline of Australia, north of Antarctica. It's an environmental wilderness famous for its clean air and natural beauty. It's also home to the mad Tasmanian Devil, a very aggressive and evil tempered creature which you would not want to hand feed.

1. HIDDEN AWAY IN THIS

sanctuary of wild forests and wind-swept hills is the aptly named Cape Grim. Scientists have proven the air here is the cleanest in the world. The wind blows the Antarctic rains uninhibited to the Cape. This is where we source our water. Each precious drop is so pure it is almost a sin to take it.

2. PURE DISTILLERY COMPANY

openly admit to stealing all that is natural and pure from Tasmania. We only use Tasmanian barley in our triple pot distilled and charcoal filtered process. The result is a velvety smooth yet distinctly clean tasting vodka. This is why 666 is known throughout the world as pure evil.

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WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS

Paris, the city of love. That old cliché turned out to be spot on when we hung out with Paulini. Before heading out to enjoy the Parisian nightlife, we spent a bit of time locked up in our hotel room, cooling down and preparing for the night's offerings. As the sun hung low in the sky and with the Eiffel Tower drawn boldly in the background, we took a few shots of the incredibly seductive Paulini. Paris has seen countless artists and writers attempt to capture her beauty, and that afternoon, she truly was breathtaking.

Photography: Henryk Lobaczewski
Model : Paulini













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WILD AT HEART

**PENTHOUSE SPOKE WITH BEAR
WRANGLING, LIVER EATING, WORLD
RENOWNED MAN OF THE MOMENT
LEONARDO DICAPRIO ABOUT THE
REVENANT AND THAT TIME HE ALMOST
DIED SKYDIVING.**

L EONARDO DiCaprio is one of Hollywood's most unique figures. After *Titanic* turned him into a massive movie star and sex symbol, he turned away from the glamour roles and instead sought out the most difficult roles he could find. He also became Martin Scorsese's fetish actor that included performances in *Gangs of New York* and 2014's *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

But now he's taken on his stiffest test yet in Oscar-winning director Alejandro González Iñárritu's *THE REVENANT*, a stark tale of one man's brutal journey of survival and vengeance. DiCaprio endured icy river waters and subzero cold during the course of the nine-month shoot, most of which took place in northern Alberta, Canada. Based on the life of 19th century explorer Hugh Glass, the film charts the harrowing ordeal that he faced after being badly mauled by a bear and left for dead by the other members of his hunting team. The challenges posed by the elements and the terrain left their mark on DiCaprio, including a scene where he chomped into an actual bison liver in keeping with his and director Iñárritu's determination to give audiences the most authentic experience possible.

"The main nemesis was the weather and the freezing temperatures," DiCaprio says. "It was always a struggle to stay warm enough and not suffer hypothermia and also to eat enough so that we could keep going in those conditions. It wasn't pleasant but we decided that we had to go into the freezing waters because that was the kind of realism we were striving to portray...I wouldn't eat the bison liver again, though!"

Most industry pundits have established the 41-year-old DiCaprio as the favourite to finally take home the Oscar for his work in the movie, a fitting accolade for an actor who keeps turning in one remarkable performance after another. The Revenant also co-stars Britain's Tom Hardy and Irish actor Domhnall Gleeson.

Penthouse spoke with DiCaprio about his time on the film, and some of his other passions in life. He currently divides his time between New York and Los Angeles and for the past six months has been enjoying a relationship with Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Kelly Rohrbach.

"...THEY JUST BASICALLY LOOKED AT YOU AS THE CLASS CLOWN AND DISMISSED YOU. I NEVER BELONGED."

Tell us about making the film

We wanted to make a great piece of art, so if the film gets a great reviews, if it gets great business, if it gets awards, that's fantastic because I want to see more movies like this out there coming from Hollywood. This is truly a poetic existential epic and you don't get to see stuff like this happen very often. So, I could only wish it all the success in the world.

The film is an intense portrayal of a human in the throes of despair. There's an enduring realism that really draws the viewer in. What aspects of the film were most prominent for you?

The theme of man vs nature, revenge, the perseverance of life, what a man draws on to survive, our ability to adapt, what we hold onto, what drives us - these are all themes we wanted to explore while we were there. We spent nine months living in that environment and all those themes we spoke about before started the movie became apparent to us while we were making the movie.

We went on an epic voyage together

because so much of what we were going to put up on screen was going to be dictated by us immersing ourselves in the natural world and recreating this environment.

Why did you take this role on... what was it about the script that spoke to you?

This was a pivotal point in American history because here you have this untouched pristine landscape. This was the first influx of people there. It was all about capitalism trying to extract the resources that were there and how many different cultures were sacrificed to this kind of greed.

This whole era of American history is undocumented, so in a lot of ways it was like doing a science fiction movie and reconnecting with a part of America that wasn't yet America, but very much like a lawless territory where you had French and English fur trappers and indigenous native people, fighting over these resources. We had to piece together what this world would be like and how these characters would interact, but at its core the movie is obviously about the relations between man and nature.

Being out in nature for that long, is an existential journey. The story, by and large, is very linear: a man gets screwed over and loses his son and then he goes to attack the dude that screwed his life up.

But to me and Alejandro it was these great bookmarks for what would happen when he and I started to figure out the poetry of who this character is and what he goes through. Nothing is fake in this story. **We felt as though the limited amount of dialog added to the portrayal in a less is more kind of way**

That really was one of the most exciting parts about the project. When I read the script I kept urging Alejandro to take out more lines. I wanted less dialogue because that was the exploration of this character. Actually, Hugh Glass is a man that does not mince words, he gets straight to the point and I don't think he necessarily wants to communicate with that many people. (Laughs). But staying silent for so long, even for such a man like Hugh Glass, is a real challenge. And that was a challenge as I had to make the

story come alive, just through his eyes.

Alejandro González Iñárritu is known for his dedication to authenticity. How did you deal with filming in such extreme cold?

I decided not to cover any of my fingers because I wanted to manipulate my environment. And, of course, I ended up crawling through miles and miles of snow-covered landscape...It's those decisions early in a film that come back to haunt you.

But we knew what we were signing up for when you say you're going to do this in sub-zero temperatures and in places untouched by man.

I was never injured while working on the film although I did get pretty sick with the flu a few times.

Talking about extreme situations in my life though, I've been scuba diving, but after seeing this movie you could certainly never compare any kind of extreme to this struggle in the wilderness.

At the end of any shooting day I would go to my hotel room and think I would never be able to endure what these men did. I have been in a lot of situations which were sort of near death experiences but nothing like this, no.

Every single day of this movie was difficult. It was the most difficult film I've ever done. You'll see, when you see the film—the endurance that we all had to have is very much up on the screen.

There is a famous scene in the film where Hugh Glass is attacked by a bear. The scene's dedication to realism makes it a gripping piece of cinema. Can you tell us how you and the director managed to achieve this?

I don't want to give away all the details about how we shot the scene but I was never in any danger....We rehearsed the scene for several months and studied tapes of over 100 actual bear attacks to know how we should do it.

People are talking about it because it's something incredibly ground-breaking ... audiences are responding to it because it's unlike anything they've seen in cinema ever really...Alejandro (Gonzales Iñárritu) allows the audience to (experience) a very raw violent savage bear attack yet feel the intimacy of both man and beast, you feel the sweat and the heat coming off of the animal.

What was it like to work with Alejandro González Iñárritu?

It was all a big, beautiful blur to me. This was such a unique process for all of us as actors. The shooting style was unlike anything I've ever done before and unlike anything the other actors had ever done





"AT ITS CORE THE MOVIE IS OBVIOUSLY ABOUT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE"

before...It was very much like performing theatre everyday: We had to rehearse meticulously and it was this mad, intense scramble to capture this magic light, this precious hour and a half of beautiful illustrious 'Chivo' (cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki's nickname - ED) light – and so it became very much like a humorous 'Saturday Night Live' situation.

We wanted to shoot in natural light because Alejandro strives for such authenticity. I'm still staggered by his kind of commitment to the work and how it adds so much to the experience you have as an actor. You get to do what you do best when you get to immerse yourself in the part. That's a great gift if you're an actor. You felt an intensity and a unity with the entire crew and it became this perpetuating thing that translated into this movie.

Speaking of striving for authenticity, did you really eat a buffalo liver?

Yes, it was a real buffalo liver. It was disgusting and you see my real reaction to that experience on the screen! (Smiles)

There was a point in filming where you guys had to shut down - what happened there?

We were supposed to do a scene with my son as he's praying for me. And the temperature hit 40 below zero. At that

point we couldn't really open our eyes. And our fingers locked together and the camera gear locked together, and I just looked at Alejandro and said, 'I'm all for enduring realism, but there comes a point when nothing is operable.'

(The production subsequently shut down on November 29th and shooting did not resume until January 19th.)

Apparently you used to skydive, but not anymore? Can you tell us what happened there?

I like the excitement that comes with pushing myself past what I think are my own limits. It's interesting to scare yourself but once you've faced your fears you feel exhilarated.

I also used to do skydiving for that reason. But then there was...an incident. It was a tandem dive. We pulled the first chute. That was knotted up. The gentleman I was with cut it free. We did another free fall for like another 5, 10 seconds. I didn't even think about the extra chute, so I thought we were just plummeting to our death. He pulled the second, and that was knotted up too. He just kept shaking it and shaking it in mid-air, as all my friends were, you know, what felt like half a mile above me, and I'm plummeting toward earth. (Laughs.) And he finally unravels it in mid-air. The fun part was when he said, 'You're probably

going to break your legs on the way down, because we're going too fast now.' So after you see your whole life flash in front of your eyes—twice—he says, 'Oh, your legs are going to get broken too.' (When we finally landed) we did, like, this barrel roll. We got bruised up, but no broken legs....I do not skydive any longer.

Tell us a bit about life growing up as Leo

In school I was about a foot shorter than anyone else, always jumping up and getting laughs - a little smart-ass with a big mouth. School was like this wild safari where I could make a name for myself, but it never really worked. They just basically looked at you as the class clown and dismissed you. I never belonged.

...They just basically looked at you as the class clown and dismissed you. I never belonged.


But I was very lucky to have great parents who helped me understand the world and give me a better sense of the world. My mother would spend hours driving me to a special art-oriented school so I could get a better education. If she hadn't done that for me, I would never have become an actor.

What's something you wish you had of known when you were at that stage in your life? What would you tell young people today?

I've produced films which speak about the defence of the environment (most notably, *The 11th Hour* – ED) and I try all the time to make younger people very aware about how fragile our ecosystem is and how we can all make a difference.

I have a solar-powered house. I drive a hybrid car which consumes very little gas. I separate my garbage, I don't run the water unnecessarily, and I shut off the lights when I leave a room. All those little things which if we all did can have a huge impact, and I think the younger generation is much more sensitised to environmental issues than I was when I was growing up.

Looking back to when you were growing up, did you ever expect to get to this point?

I sometimes have to look back and say, "Wow, this is amazing what has happened to me. I have been able to fulfil a lot of these dreams that I had when I was very young...It's pretty amazing. I have to say it's a pretty amazing feeling. But at the same time it becomes addictive! So yes, my dreams have been surpassed. (And) I would like to think that I stood for something and made a positive contribution to the world. 



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TRAVEL LIKE A BILLIONAIRE

UBER CEO TRAVIS KALANICK, HOW HIGH END TRAVEL IS
GETTING UBERFIED, PLUS THE BEST IN HEADPHONES AND
PORTABLE SPEAKERS



THE MAN CHANGING THE WAY YOU MOVE

UBER CEO TRAVIS KALANICK IS DESCRIBED BY THOSE WHO KNOW HIM AS ARROGANT AND RECKLESS. COULD THIS BE THE SECRET TO HIS SUCCESS?

WITH a networth of \$6 billion USD and string of successful Silicon Valley tech companies on his portfolio, Travis Kalanick is a veritable baller. The founder and CEO of Uber, the ride sharing app that is changing the face of door-to-door transport, Kalanick and co-founder Garrett Camp started the company to overcome the problem of not being able find a taxi in San Francisco. Initially, Uber used already available luxury fleet cars that belonged to private hire companies. This allowed users to get a comfortable, classy ride at the press of a button, for only a slight increase in cost.

For Kalanick, overcoming San Francisco's lack of available taxis wasn't his only motivation though. In a founding story blog post, he explained that riding in style was a key aspect of the app.

"We just wanted to push a button and get a ride," he said "And we wanted to get a classy ride. We wanted to be baller in San Francisco. That's all it was about."

Kalanick is part of a rising number of highlife CEO's coming out of the tech start-up Mecca, Silicon Valley. These guys are young, intelligent, tech-savvy with the ego to fuel their millionaire lifestyles. And right now, Kalanick has been anointed their king – sitting atop a huge fortune, dating the stunning Gabi Holsworth and leading one of the most innovative, disruptive tech companies of the last 5 years.

Kalanick didn't get where he is sitting around – his success is well earned, through years of hard work and perseverance. As a kid he wanted to be a spy, but the allure of entrepreneurship was too strong. In his younger days he travelled door-to-door selling knives and at only eighteen he started his own business – an SAT prep course called New Way Academy. After graduating High School, he attended UCLA to study computer engineering, however, like so many successful

tech entrepreneurs, he dropped out to pursue something bigger. His first tech start-up was Scour, a peer-to-peer multimedia search engine which ended in bankruptcy when the company was sued by several entertainment companies. Men like Kalanick don't get where they are by giving up: he soon started another peer-to-peer company using the same search engine that he and his team had designed for Scour. The new company 'Red Swoosh' would later be acquired for \$19 million.

Kalanick is described as reckless and arrogant by those who know him. This, in part, is the key to his success. Always hungry and on the look-out for new ideas, Kalanick holds 'jam sessions' until late into the night at his house in San Francisco. A 'jam session' is the name for the idea forums he holds with other entrepreneurs, where they discuss business ideas, drink beer and play video games. Kalanick became an angel investor in Silicon Valley who, if he liked you, would invest in your start-up and if he believed in what you were selling, would even work a couple of days a week with you for free.

That being said, he is known to be ruthless and bold in business – a capitalistic force determined for success at all costs. John Batelle, an entrepreneur and journalist has said most in the tech industry "are worried about the sheer expression of capitalistic force that the company [Uber] represents". Even a long-time friend of Kalanick's described him in an interview with as "an incredibly aggressive person".

Success like Kalanick's rarely comes without controversy and his personality, although bristly, has clearly made up part of his success. Beyond all criticism of the man himself – his company and his impact is undeniable – Uber continues to grow and is fast transforming the face of transport all over the world.

**"WE WANTED TO GET
A CLASSY RIDE. WE
WANTED TO BE BALLER
IN SAN FRANCISCO.
THAT'S ALL IT WAS
ABOUT."**





TRAVEL



TRAVEL GETS UBERFIED

FANCY heading somewhere on a Gulfstream 650 jet, island hopping with a luxury yacht or taking a Triumph Spitfire MK3 1967 through London? It's all now doable thanks to a brash startup called Uber who showed how instant web access can deliver what you want when you want it anywhere in the world.

Uber revolutionized the taxi business by going around the big companies and talking directly to customers and drivers-and made a mozza doing it. No surprise that lots of other people are now looking at how they can also disrupt travel by offering unlimited choice in boats, planes and cars.

These 'on demand' startups are letting you travel like a billionaire at a fraction of the cost with just your smartphone and credit card in hand, connecting you directly to company fleets or to so-called 'peer-to-peer' options where individuals let you get up close and personal with their precious passenger jet, speed boat or Masaratti.

You could get your hands on a lot of these boys toys in the past as well of course, but it was just a lot more expensive, time consuming and bureaucratic. The new 'Gig' businesses are taking the hassle out of travel with rapid connections online or from simple mobile apps to an ever expanding range of options, especially as the people who own some of these luxury machines prefer to rent them out over locking them up in garages or marinas.

It may still be early days for travel uberfication, especially in Australia, but as the startups get smarter and faster, you'll soon find the world's your uber.

MILE HIGH CLUB

Flying anywhere can be a hard, expensive slog, especially if you've always fancied a private jet, but now newcomers like Surf Air, Blackjet, Arrow or Jumpseat want to make it just like, well, Uber. U.S. centric at this stage, all four offer seats on private jets already flying where you want to go often at discounted prices and backed up by apps or 24 hour concierge call in.

The long hauls also look like getting smarter. London based Vistajet now has 58 jets, like the Global 6000 and Challenger 350, covering eighty percent of the world including Australia. The company, which is just about to launch an app, says its planes come with two pilots, cabin staff, luxurious interiors, gourmet food or alcohol, and are able to pick you up or drop you off anywhere as long as the landing strip is long enough.

Sure, all that comfort and convenience comes at a price. For the 15 person Global 6000 out of Sydney its \$16,000 an hour from 'wheels up to wheels down', but cheaper on domestic runs, and cheaper still if you become a member. The company says business is booming in our neck of the woods, especially between Australia and the US or China.

UK based Victor is similarly 'bespoke', but says its on demand approach delivers absolute convenience at lower prices than booking private jets the old fashioned way through brokers. Jets are ranked as "Head of State," "Mid-size" and the "Very Light Jet", depending on where you want to go, and they'll even let your dog fly up there with you too.

BUOY'S CLUB

The world's oceans are getting crowded with Uber like startups, offering everything from yachts and catamarans to speedboats, crew and tailored trips from pretty much anywhere you land.

Sailsquare and Antlos operate out of Europe, but both let you pick from hundreds of yachting holidays all round the world with either your own group or complete strangers. In the U.S. you can choose from every sort of boat imaginable, with companies like Boatbound, Cruzin, Boatsetter or GetMyBoat, while for dedicated sailors there's now Sailo.

Australian startups like Flote and Boatbay are testing the water too. Boatbay is typical of the new freedom, offering concierge services to book big and small yachts, with or without crew, here or in South East Asia from places like Singapore, Phuket in Thailand and Bali.

Of course Uber's seen the potential too, recently launching UberBoat for cross-continent trips out of Istanbul in Turkey and with more options becoming available shortly.

CAR CLUB

Startups all round the world are now tapping into new, luxury or classic cars that you can hire directly from owners either for a spin round town or much further afield. And you can do it all from their smartphone apps once you get there.

UK based RenteCarlo is pretty typical, allowing registered members to get behind the wheel of prestige cars like Maseratis, Porches and Audi R8s-all without the hassles and overheads of major car hire companies. Europe's also got Roadstr, Drivvy, Snappcar, GoMore and Naboli all doing something similar, while in the U.S. you can try out Turo, Justshareit, rockandrollrides, or, if nature is your thing, Outdoorsy, with its collection of classic caravans.

But you know an idea has wheels when three of the world's biggest car companies also hop on board. Ford's easyCarClub, General Motors Maven and BMW's DriveNow all now offer some form of car sharing or car hire backed up by apps to make it all happen.

CHOP CHOP

If anything sums up the uberfication of travel it has to be Blade, the U.S. based helicopter ride startup that launched last year to instant success.

By passing all the old rules, long delays and high prices of chopper hire, Blade launched an app that's now been downloaded around 300,000 times. Members either book into an existing flight to their destination or create a new flight that Blade then crowdsources to fill.

Blade has not only cut prices for chopper hire, but hours from holiday trips to places like the Hamptons, Cape Cod or the Bahamas and keeps adding destinations. And if you're landing at any New York airport you can now tap onto BladeBounce for a 5 minute trip to mid town for around \$900.

Uber even partnered with Blade for a Fourth of July weekend event, but has now launched their own UberChopper round the world, including Australia.







SOUND INVESTMENT

EVER been stuck on a flight trying to make those airline earpieces fit properly or at least make out what they're saying on the movie? Failing getting an upgrade to first class you're best to join the growing ranks of travelers who come wired for sound with a great set of headphones.

Headphones are definitely having a moment as the big audio guys like Bose, Sony, Bang & Olufsen and Philips as well as smaller companies like Sennheiser and Harmon Kardon release new gear. All this attention means the latest headphones are lighter, more compact, better designed, and smarter with Bluetooth streaming, apps, touch control or sensors, and with great CD quality, High Definition sound.

But it's the noise cancelling technology that's really hard to beat. While most of the next generation headphones offer noise isolating earcups often in luxurious leather or suede, going that bit extra in price for a pair that really shuts out the world with active or adaptive noise cancellation is well worth it.

Sure headphones are bigger and pricier than earbuds, but they also sound so much better. It just means you can concentrate on relaxing on those long flights without listening to crying babies or the couple behind you. So even if you aren't in first or business, you will feel like you are.

- The **Sennheiser Momentum 2.0** is top of the line, but has premium performance and features to justify the price. Strong design means these are not only great looking headphones, but light, sturdy, comfortable to wear for long periods, and so compact they fold away into a neat pouch. Dual connection with either Bluetooth or wire, they come with active noise-cancellation, dual microphones for taking calls, embedded earcup swipe control and a 20 plus hour battery life. Like most headphones, the wire connection delivers better audio, but even in Bluetooth mode these have great balance, clarity and base.

- The **Bose QuietComfort 25** is the latest from an iconic company that's been something of a pioneer in noise cancelling headphones. This next generation model improves on nearly everything across the board, including sound, noise cancelling and overall performance. Design is a standout, with luxurious leather over-ear cups for comfort, zinc metal pivot molding, nice weight, robust build and simple folding mechanism for very compact storage. There's Bluetooth and wired connection for convenience, 35 hour battery life and crisp, warm audio. It also helps that Bose offers a 21 day satisfaction guarantee, so if you don't like them, you can return them.

- The **Parrot Zik 2.0** comes from a company that made its name building drones, but is definitely no slouch when it comes to audio either. Calling the Zik 2.0 "the world's most advanced headphones", they've embedded a lot of IQ like excellent noise cancellation, motion sensors, embedded earcup control and 8 microphones. Using noted French designer Phillippe Stark, the Zik 2.0 is not only beautifully engineered for easy movement, but incorporates polished aluminum molding and padded oval, 'leather' finish earcups for great looks and comfort. The accompanying free Apple or Android apps help you create bespoke audio effects, while the 5 band equalizer, graduated presets and more powerful digital-to-analog converter deliver great HD sound.





SPEAKERS

PORTABLE PLAY

HEADPHONES are great for when you want to be focused, but there's lots of times travelling when listening to music out loud, either on your own or with friends, is the way to go. Especially when you want better sound than you can get out your phone, tablet or laptop, or the docks a lot of hotels offer.


And that's where wireless Bluetooth speakers deliver. This is also becoming a very crowded scene with Sonos, Bowers & Wilkins, Yamaha, JBL, Beats, Riva Audio and Jawbone, to mention just a few, all offering compact, light weight and great looking speakers with far better sound than they did even just a few years ago.

It helps they're versatile too, able to connect with most smartphones, tablets, laptops or any other Bluetooth enabled gadget. While many now also come with long life rechargeable batteries, so that they can go wherever you go without missing a beat.

Which Speakers To Choose?

- The **Sony SRS-X3** is one of the best looking wireless Bluetooth speakers on the market, with simple, pared back design, lovely finish and elegant controls. It's also one of the most compact speakers around, but still manages to fit in a speakerphone feature, different sound modes and NFC technology for smartphone pairing. Mini wireless speakers have had a mixed reputation when it comes to audio, but the SRS-X3 has great sound for its size and is definitely one of the better minis out there for audio performance. A clean sound, particularly in the mid-range, it has input for non-Bluetooth devices and a 7-hour battery life.

- The **JBL Charge 2+** has a slick, water resistant, cylindrical design that's highly portable and can be played both vertically or horizontally for complete versatility when you're travelling. One of the lightest on the market, it still comes with features like a built-in multiple connect speakerphone, good 12 hour battery life and can act as a portable charger for your other gadgets like phones and tablets. The Charge 2+ has one of the better reputations for sound on the market for its size and particularly at high volumes, which can be a problem for some Bluetooth speakers.

- The **UE Roll** comes from established peripherals company Logitech and is one of three in its Bluetooth speaker line. The UE Roll is also one of the most distinctive for its saucer design, light weight portability, and affordability. The fact that it's waterproof and comes with a bungee cord and 'life preserver' for floating adds to its outdoor appeal. Notwithstanding its skinny build, it comes with great features like solid audio, rechargeable 9-hour battery, ability to play flat or vertically, and multiple-speaker option if you tether it to another Roll. 



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TRAVEL IN STYLE

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ONE



LOOKING GOOD

YOU want to carry as little as possible when travelling, which is why boarding a plane wearing bulky things works in your favour. Plus, it's autumn and it gets kind of cold and there's nothing worse than being stuck in the airport, or on the plane, freezing your proverbials off, wishing you had a jacket.

Well, to save you from that, here are some easy-to-wear looks to get you through the airport if you're travelling for work, play or even for a weekend away.

LOOK ONE

Comfort is *number one* when travelling, and chicks dig a guy who knows how to layer. This combo works because it's comfortable, you can take the layers off if you're going somewhere hot, but you're also set if you're heading off somewhere colder.

COTTON JACKET, H&M, \$79.95, HM.COM/AU/

TEE, SIK SILK, \$80, SIKSILK.COM

CHAMBRAY SHIRT, GRANA, \$71, GRANA.COM

CASHMERE SCARF, GRANA, \$79, GRANA.COM

JEANS, H&M, \$59.95, HM.COM/AU/

LAPTOP BAG, BEN SHERMAN, \$329, BENSHERMAN.COM.AU

SHOES, FLORESHEIM, \$179.95, FLORSHEIM.COM.AU

LOOK TWO

If you're seeing someone new, you're going to want to impress and this is the outfit. You've got your backpack for overnight essentials, a windbreaker in case she feels like hiking and shoes ready for date night.

WINDBREAKER, LAGERFELD, \$399,

VARQAHOMME.COM.AU

SHIRT, BEN SHERMAN, \$99.95, BENSHERMAN.COM.AU

JEANS, WRANGLER, \$149.95, SHOP.WRANGLER.COM.AU

SUEDETTE CONTRAST SHOES, \$54, BOOHOO,

BOOHOO.COM

BEN SHERMAN, BACKPACK, \$129.95, BENSHERMAN.COM.AU

HEADPHONES, JBL, \$59.95, JBHIFI.COM.AU

LOOK THREE

Everyone knows work is a drag and having to get to the airport by 5AM to make your meeting sucks even more. If you're out for the day and heading off to a colder part of Oz (e.g. Melbourne), make sure you're sorted for the unpredictable weather.

TRENCH, TM LEWIN, \$349, TMLEWIN.COM.AU

CLASSIC SHIRT, BEN SHERMAN, \$99.95,

BENSHERMAN.COM.AU

SUIT JACKET, BEN SHERMAN, \$315, BENSHERMAN.COM.AU

CHINOS, H&M, \$39.95, HM.COM/AU/

WATCH, ARMANI EXCHANGE, \$329, 02 8977 8086

SHOES, JULIUS MARLOW, \$199.95, JULIUSMARLOW.COM.AU

FINLEY BRIEFCASE, ECCO, \$199.95, AU.SHOP.ECCO.COM

TWO



THREE



IN THE BAG

GLASSES GIVEAWAY

For a chance to win 1 of three pairs of Local Supply sunnies (as seen below), drop us an email and tell us: where is your local?
info@phpublications.com



DUFFEL, THE NORTH FACE, \$230, THENORTHFACE.COM.AU / JACKET, BEN SHERMAN, \$349.95, BENSHERMAN.COM.AU / BURTON BACKPACK, AVAILABLE AT GLUE STORE, \$89.95 BRANDO BROGUES, \$399, BRANDO.COM.AU / TEE, FILTHY LOOK, \$39, FILTHYLOOK.COM / LE COQ SPORTIF JUMPER AVAILABLE AT GLUE STORE, \$139.95 / HEADPHONES, HARMAN/KARDON, \$299.99, JBHIFI.COM.AU / BANDIT CAMERA, TOM TOM, \$579, TOMTOM.COM / PULSE SPEAKER, JBL, \$329.95, JBHIFI.COM.AU / CHINOS, 21MEN BY FOREVER 21, \$39.95, (02) 8937 0346 / SNEAKERS, BRANDO, \$229, BRANDO.COM.AU

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SMART PACK

WHEELS

1 / If you're travelling for a longer period of time, it's probably worthwhile investing in a hardcase suitcase. This IT Apollo spincase, available at Strandbags (\$199), sports a lockable trolley system with button control, eight wheels for stability and a ten year warranty.

2 / Now, if you're not going for long and want to avoid having to check-in your bag, there's the Samsonite hardside suitcase (\$399). It's lightweight, made of a new polypropylene mix that makes it impact resistant, features double wheels for stability and a divider pad in the top compartment for easy and organised packing.

3 / For something a little lighter and made purely for adventure, there's the Long Haul luggage by The North Face (\$400). This 88-litre roller bag features an updated, rugged, functional design with wheels and a retractable handle to take the grunt work out of hauling any size load.

DUFFEL

4 / If you're after something in a style of a duffel with wheels, there's the 24/7 Active 28-Wheel Bag from Strandbags (\$139). Not only does it have wheels, it converts into a backpack with multiple external pockets.

5 / The duffel is great for any type of travel. This Hidesign overnight bag, available at the Luggage Professionals (\$336), provides exceptional quality with style. It has leather shoulder straps for comfort and clip-together handles for easy carrying.

LAPTOP BAGS

6 / For a more versatile bag that can be used for work and also short trips, there's the messenger bag by Rains. Available at Half Sleeve (\$100), this classic backpack is easy to carry, has adjustable shoulder straps for comfort and is waterproof, so the laptop is always safe.

7 / When you're travelling for work and need to bring your laptop, the Samsonite Savio rolling tote is a great investment. It features a fast access front pocket for your wallet and smart organisation with a padded section on top for your tablet or laptop (\$597).

8 / Now, if you're just after a bag that can carry your laptop and you're not bothered if it has wheels, there's the Ecco Denio crossbody (\$289). This crossbody has plenty of room inside, with a mobile phone pocket for easy access and keyring strap, so you'll never lose your keys.



4



5



6



7



8



TOILTRIES BAG, HERSCHEL, \$54.95, RUSHFASTER.COM.AU / COLOGNE, ACCA KAPPA AVAILABLE AT SAISON, \$95, SAISON.COM.AU / TWEEZERS, MANICARE, \$9.99, MANICARE.COM.AU / SLEEPING MASK, MANICARE, \$8.99, MANICARE.COM.AU / MOISTURIZER, NIVEA, \$11.83, NIVEA.COM.AU / NAIL BRUSH, ACCA KAPPA AVAILABLE AT SAISON, \$79.95, SAISON.COM.AU / FACE WASH, NIVEA, \$7.99, NIVEA.COM.AU / TOENAIL CLIPPER WITH CATCHER, QVS AVAILABLE AT TARGET AND ALL LEADING PHARMACIES, \$5.49, / DEODRANT, NIVEA, \$3.79, NIVEA.COM.AU / DRY STYLING WAX, GOLDWELL, \$25.45, GOLDWELL.COM.AU

ON THE MOVE

IT'S so easy to forget a thing or two when you're travelling, but there's one thing you should never forget. Looking good and smelling good - all the time.

Skin Care

Most guys are not bothered with skincare (and we get it) but when you travel your skin can wind up looking like crap. Here are some of the best travel products that are both easy to carry and spill-proof.

Neotrata Enlighten cleanser

This face wash is better than your average. It exfoliates, hydrates and refreshes all at the same time. Retails at \$39.95 for 100ML.

TriShave Travel Kit

Easy to pack, and has all your shaving essentials. This TriShave travel kit (\$10.50) features the TriShave 3in1 Anti-Rash Shave Creme (30g), TriShave 3in1 Post Shave SPF30+ Moisturising Lotion (15g), and Speed 3 Disposable Razor. The travel kit comes housed in a plastic zip lock bag, which is great if you're travelling with a carry on.

Lab Oil Control Face Wash

This Lab series oil control face wash (\$38) is a concentrated liquid-to-foam wash that cleans the skin of dirt, pollution and excess oil. With a spill proof cap, it's ideal for guys with 'normal to oily' and 'oily' skin types.

Men Expert Hydra Energetic Ice Cool Eye Roll-On

As much as you might want to avoid a product like this, the L'Oréal Paris hydra energetic ice cool eye roll-on is an anti-fatigue roll-on for men that fights dark circles and eye-bags. It also has the double action of the physical massage helping stimulate drainage of congested features, with a unique ice cool formula. Great for those long flights where you have to duck straight in to a meeting and you haven't had a snooze. Retails for \$15.85.

Clinique Men's Moisturising Lotion

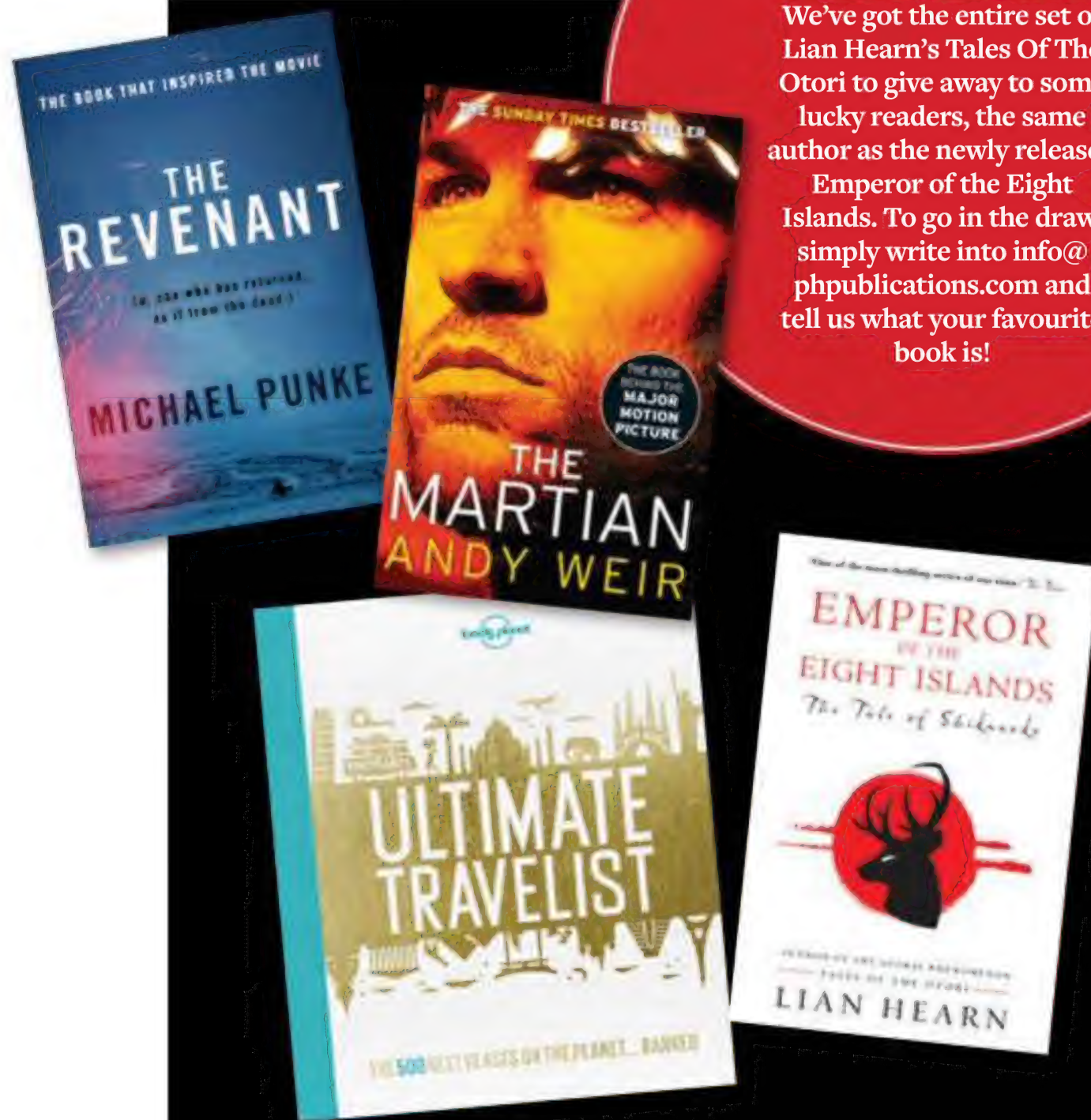
Clinique for Men's moisturizing lotion, (\$39) provides all-day hydration and relieves dryness in dry to normal skin.

Danne Montague-King boy's club

Instead of carrying various products in your suitcase, this pack, which works as a travel kit for \$96, contains your everyday essentials. It has your face wash, cream and facial mist in a convenient toiletry kit that you can throw in your carry on.

BOOK GIVEAWAY

We've got the entire set of Lian Hearn's Tales Of The Otori to give away to some lucky readers, the same author as the newly released Emperor of the Eight Islands. To go in the draw, simply write into info@phpublications.com and tell us what your favourite book is!



THE REVENANT

The Revenant, available at Dymocks for \$19.99, is a book based on a true story. The book follows Hugh Glass, his determination to survive and desire for revenge against those that abandoned him.

THE MARTIAN

The Martian, by Andy Weir, is a compelling read. With an ingenious plot that surprises again and again, it's hands down one of the best books to pick up and read on the plane. Available at Dymocks for \$22.99.

ULTIMATE TRAVELIST

If you love travelling and are all about uncovering the next best spots, Lonely Planet has compiled 500 of the best places you should hit-up in their ultimate travelist. Available at Dymocks for \$34.99

TALE OF SHIKANOKO SERIES

If you're wanting to read something that's action packed, there's Lian Hearn's Tale of Shikanoko series. In the first book of the series, you will uncover a story of two rival clans struggling over who will be crowned the Emperor of the Eight islands. This intriguing story is based in medieval Japan where animal spirits and assassins existed alongside humans. Published by Hachette Australia, this book retails for \$29.99.

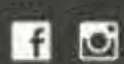
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1



COLOGNE

1 / Calvin Klein CK2

If you're after something a little more casual, CK2 will work for you. It's designed to have a fresh note but carries a little musk - not too overpowering once it settles on the skin.

\$100ml for \$99, Stockist: 1800 812 663

2 / Bottega Veneta Pour Homme Essence Aromatique Eau De Cologne

This new fragrance by Bottega Veneta is an easy-to-wear cologne that's fresh and citrusy. It combines the blended scent of bergamot and coriander with hints of rose.

\$120 for 90mL, Stockist: 1800 812 663

3 / Solid State Voyager

Great for re-applying and travel because it's spill-free, it's also naturally made from locally sourced Australian ingredients. Expect leather, rose and white musk tones.

\$35 per tin

4 / Gucci Guilty EAU

Guilty EAU by Gucci is the ultimate date night fragrance. With a smoother take on the classic Guilty men's fragrance, it has a contrasting blend of woody orris infused to the orange blossom signature of the original scent.

90ml, \$115

5 / David Beckham Aqua Classic

David Beckham's Aqua Classic is the new cologne from his range to hit the market. Available from March. It's refreshing and carries hints of lemon, which is perfect for daywear.

60ml, \$39.00, Stockist: 1800 812 663

6 / Paco Rabanne 1 Million

If you're looking to pick up on holiday, this is the cologne for you. It has a fresh masculine scent with mandarin tones and a base note of leather.

75ml for \$85, 125ml for \$110



3



4



5



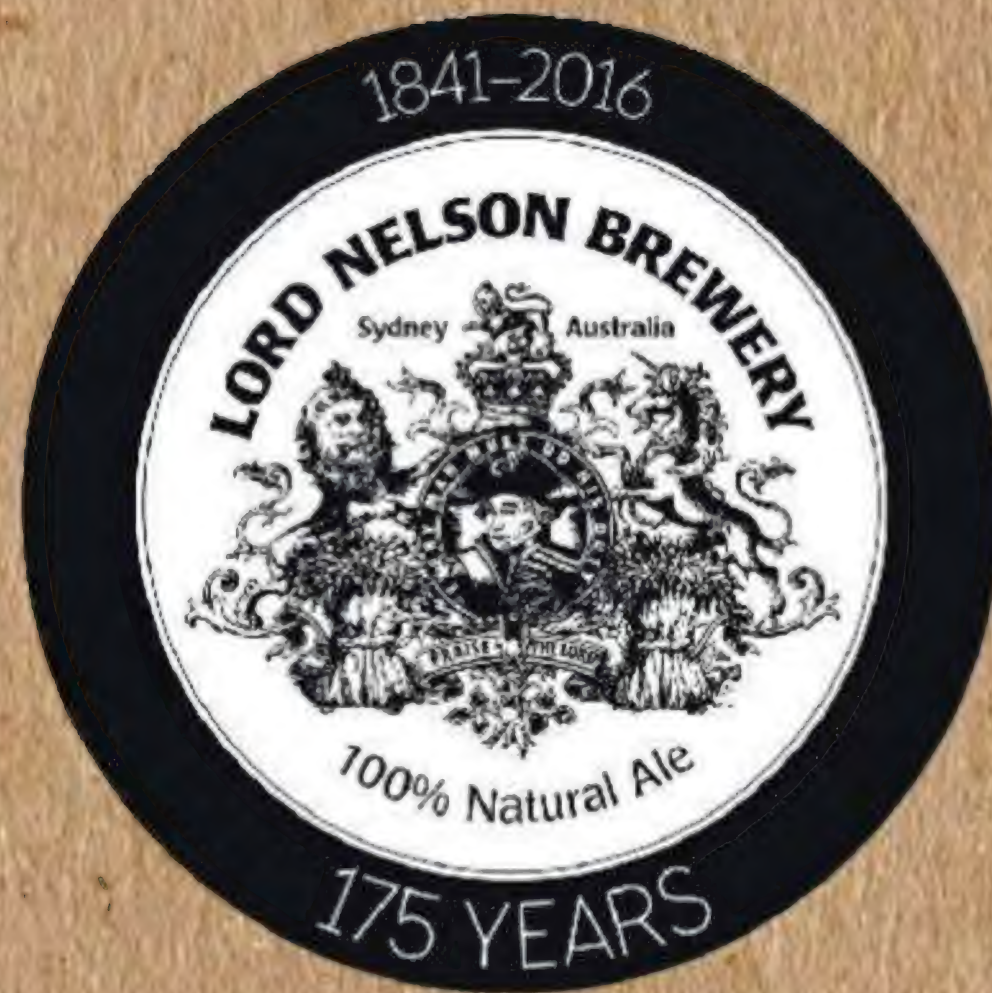
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TIME FOR TRAVEL

WHILE majority of people rely on their phones for the time, it's generally always easier to tell the time if you have a watch on. Here we have the best watches for this autumn from classics like Bering (which can be picked up from Bijoux at Sydney Airport) to a timeless Citizen piece. We also have Breitling's galactic collection with synchronised date and time functionality. Other watches with similar detailed functionality include TW Steel's limited edition 10-year anniversary Canteen watch and Diesel's Mega Chief. The Diesel is engineered with precision and accuracy, sporting a fighter jet inspired custom crown.

BERING AVAILABLE AT BIJOUX \$250, BIJOUX.COM.AU / BREITLING, \$10,770, BREITLING.COM / TW STEEL, \$749, TWSTEEL.COM / CITIZEN ECO DRIVE, \$299, CITIZENWATCHES.COM.AU / DIESEL MEGA CHIEF, \$349, 02 8977 8086 / SNEAKERS, \$79.95 H&M, HM.COM/AU/ / SCARF, \$89.95, BENSHERMAN.COM.AU



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GOOD TASTE

EAT ME!

FOOD THAT WILL GET YOUR GIRL GOING, THE BEST PALEO
EATERIES AND THE RISE OF THE FOOD TRUCK



THE RISE OF THE FOOD TRUCK

If you're a festivalgoer, then the modern food truck is old hat. To many, this experience is a drunken, subpar burger or a late night doner kebab on a shady side street.

This however, is no longer the case. The streets are filling quickly with premium quality food on wheels. Foodies are eagerly hunting down the next location of their favourite nosh with great anticipation.

We are finally seeing some changes on the fast food front. From concept to plate, these meals are being created consciously from local produce and ethical farming. Gone are the days of processed food, making way for artisanal breads filled with succulent meats, lovingly paired with fresh ingredients in so many creative ways.

Follow your fave food truck on social media to get updates on locations or get down to your next festival and eat your way through the lot. Here's our pick of the ones to watch out for. We interviewed Rob Dean of Burger Theory, to find out what makes his burgers legendary.

BURGER THEORY

Starting life as a food truck in Adelaide, 'thoughtful fast food' was Burger Theory's mantra. Rob Dean and his American partner launched their burger business in early 2011. The truck's popularity soon grew into 4 stores.

We stole some time from Rob at the Laneway music festival to hear his theory about burgers.

So Rob, what sets Burger Theory apart from the other burger joints?

We grind our own beef. When we started five years ago that was almost unheard of and it's still pretty rare. Most places assume a burger begins as a patty but for us it starts with a steak and we grind it up ourselves.

Can you tell us where your beef comes from?

We source Corrong Angus beef in Adelaide and Fernhill Road beef in Melbourne. To stay

hormone free and buy the meat we do, it costs a lot more, so it's harder to stick with it, but we won't compromise.

Do you have a particular best seller that stands out from the rest?

Funnily enough, it's called the Number One Burger. A classic beef patty with American cheese, lettuce, tomato and our 'truck sauce'.

Are there any new and exciting flavours we should watch out for?

We've got a spicy chicken burger coming with kimchi and Korean hot sauce. It's going to be a killer number. In Adelaide and at the uni's, we are also going to be doing our own donuts.

Today you're at Laneway cranking out the meals, what's the craziest day you've had in the truck?

Oh geeze, we've done a few thousand days in the truck with usually seven or eight of us. Those days are pretty intense.

A burger will set you back a sensible \$10-\$14. Track down Burger Theory's truck with their new app on their Facebook page or hit up one of their stores.

HADDOS

Coming in a close second is artisanal hot dog's from Haddo's in Birkenhead, SA. Glenn Lumsden, a comic book illustrator inspired by the 50's and his partner in crime, Carly Palmer are co-owners of Haddo's Hotdogs.

Preservative free and without fillers, the star of Haddo's is their free range, naturally cased, Vienna sausage, double smoked in red gum. These hand crafted sausages come from Anthony Skara at Mt Barker. Five Star Bakery bake the bread and it's teamed with locally made ingredients. Vego's needn't despair either, for the grilled haloumi cheese on offer will more than provide for even the pickiest of the meat adverse.

So much more than a Hot Dog. Flavours range from the very basic ketchup and mustard, to the more flamboyant korean

dog with kimchi, hoi sin sauce and candied peanuts on top. Pumping out only three flavours each day, they keep the line and customers moving.

Glenn runs the marketing, the truck and logistics, while Carly is the flavour inventor and hog dog constructor. Glenn says, "People stand hypnotised as Carly works her wonders creating these amazing looking dogs".

With customers drooling, "That wasn't a hot dog, that was...that was something else. I had no idea a hot dog could taste like that". You know you're in for a treat.

Follow @HaddosHotDogs on twitter for up to the minute updates of the truck's location.

BAO STOP


Parked up in Drummoyne, Sydney, this food truck first went big at the Night Noodle Markets. The fluffy, fried chicken filled, melt in your mouth dumplings, the crunchy pork belly or crispy tofu - all of which will leave you smiling from ear to ear. Don't go past the sweet potato fries or fries topped with Peking duck.

Facebook reviews include: "Tried Bao Stop for the first time today and LOVED it. Those sweet potato chips are amazing and whatever they top them with, I want to bathe in". It's clear they've captured some hearts.

MY SWEET BOUTIQUE

From the lips of My Sweet Boutique, "Feed your heart and soul with the sweetest things in life", and that you will.

On offer: waffle slabs topped with ice cream and chocolate sauce, or smashed waffles artfully constructed in jars with lashings of nutella and fresh strawberries or salted pretzels.

Our top pick is banana smashed waffles with salted caramel popcorn and vanilla ice cream. You'll hear angels harps as you devour spoonfuls of this sweet goodness. Take your girls and get 'em hot at Sydney's Marrickville Market. 

LOCAL SPIRIT: AN AUSTRALIAN DISTILLERY MAP

Buying spirits used to mean imported. Whisky from Scotland. Rum from the Caribbean. Vodka from Poland. Gin from England. But all that has changed, thanks to a new wave of distillers, from the globally lauded Tasmanian whisky industry to small start-ups producing gin in the Adelaide Hills. Australian spirits are starting to make an impact.



Mt Uncle Distillery Walkamin, QLD

Set amidst the fruit plantations of the Atherton Tablelands, this far north Queensland distillery produces gin, vodka, whisky, rum, cane spirit and even marshmallow liqueur. The distillery's award-winning Iridium Gold rum is a perfect companion to the region's steamy tropical nights.

Archie Rose Distilling Co Rosebery, NSW

Sydney's first inner-city distillery in 160 years produces gin, vodka and white rye from its Rosebery headquarters. Visitors can take a tour of the distillery or hunker down in the classy industrial-style bar and sip cocktails made with the company's handcrafted spirits.

Four Pillars Gin Healesville, Vic

During its short existence, Four Pillars has garnered critical acclaim and shelf space at countless bars. The star of the Healesville operation is Wilma, the 450-litre German-made copper still. Into Wilma goes a host of exotic botanicals. Out comes rare dry, navy strength, barrel aged, spiced Negroni, and modern Australian gin.

Adelaide Hills Distillery Lobethal, SA

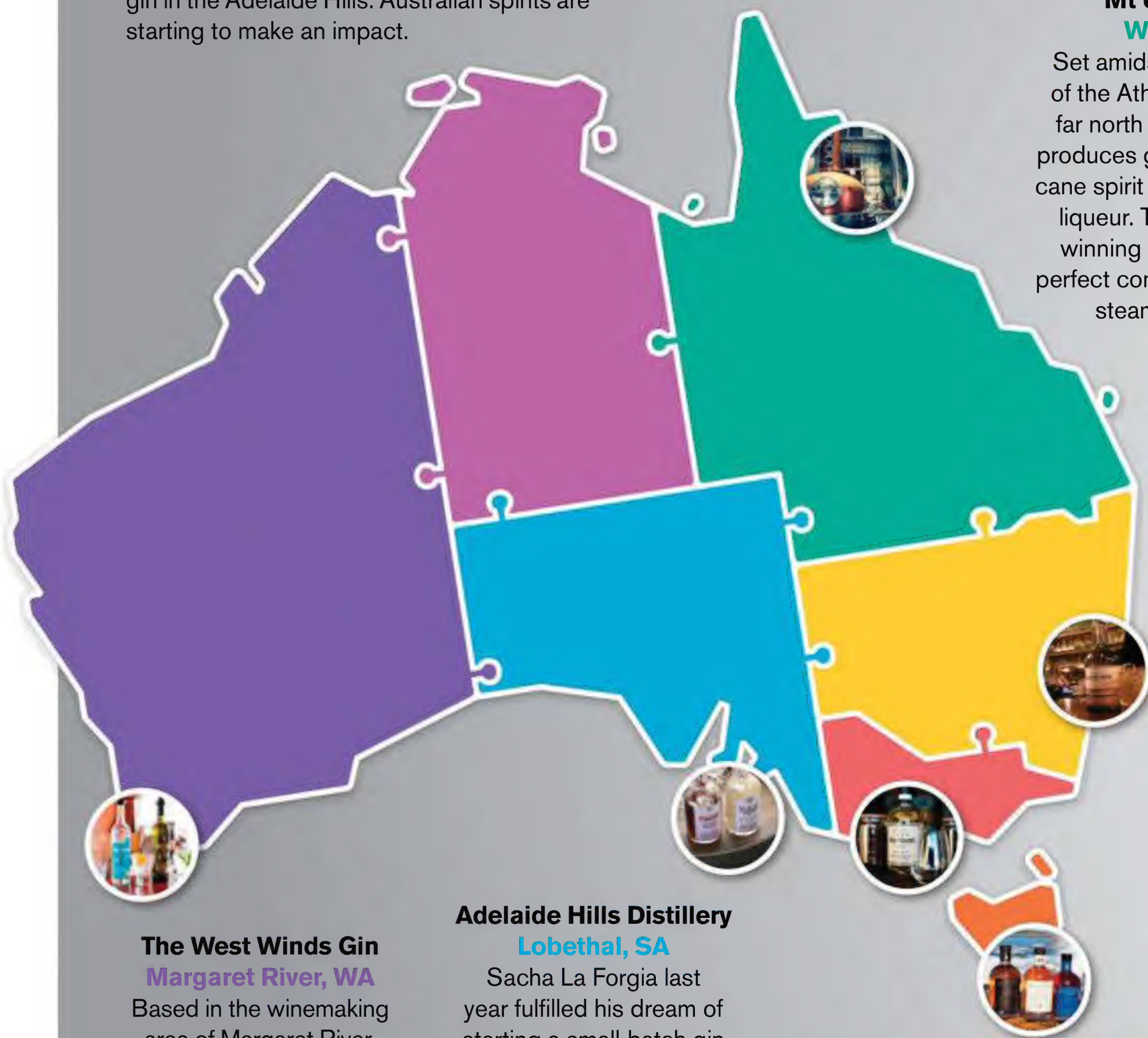
Sacha La Forgia last year fulfilled his dream of starting a small-batch gin distillery in the Adelaide Hills. After many test batches, he launched 78 Degree gin, made with carefully selected botanicals. The result is a sophisticated take on a London dry gin.

Sullivans Cove Whisky Cambridge, Tas

Tasmanian whisky is sought after the world over, thanks to pioneers like Sullivans Cove. The company started in 1994 after Tasmania's prohibition on distillation was lifted. Two decades later, the brand's French oak whisky was named the world's best single malt.

The West Winds Gin Margaret River, WA

Based in the winemaking area of Margaret River, West Winds wasted no time adding world-class spirits to the region's exports. The label's first gins, The Sabre and The Cutlass, scooped major international awards soon after launch. The Broadside, a navy-strength gin seasoned with sea salt, joined the range last year.



DINING

WHERE TO EAT OUT PALEO STYLE

INSPIRED by the caveman diet, the aim of living Paleo is to eat the foods that we've evolved eating. Put simply: ditch processed foods and instead, nourish your body with grass fed, grass finished meats, free range chicken, wild caught fish and seafood. Source chemical free produce.

We have compiled our top 5 haunts that serve up Paleo friendly foods for the working man with a caveman hunger.

> PATCH

Walking into Melbourne's Patch cafe, you're immediately struck by the Scandinavian style warehouse-like space. Patch serves up Paleo inspired brunches and 'Patch Boxes' to takeaway.

Dubbing themselves as: 'Australia's premier clean eating, Paleo inspired food lifestyle brand'. This funky café certainly appeals to the health conscious urbanite.

Patch strives to stay on-trend with their fresh and colourful menu. Patch founders Tommy Davidson and Jacob Burke's menu follows an ethically sourced and seasonal produce regime.

With dishes like the Cave Man, Showstopper and Rice to the occasion, all your Paleo desires will be satiated. Wash it down with an almond milk or butter coffee. For the caffeine sensitive, try Anushka's almond milk chai latte.

What's Good?

A hidden gem with top notch reviews praising the menu, coffee and service - you'll want to try everything on their carte du jour. Follow Patch on instagram @patchcaferichmond and be sure to check out their Paleo nosh.

> THR1VE

Thr1ve provides convenient high performance nutrition all over Australia. Their website announces, "They will transform the way you look, feel and perform in just 8 weeks". Once again, locally and ethically sourced. Thr1ve



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serves up real food, real fast.

The menu includes a breakfast selection of stacks based around a star protein. Sweets without the naughty factor, plus light and low carb lunch and dinner options.

What's Good?

Thr1ve also offers catering for busy bodies, eliminating any excuses to fall out of your healthy eating regime.

Check the website store locations www.thr1ve.me.

> SEROTONIN EATERY

This Melbourne based haunt promises to deliver Paleo inspired foodie highs with its serotonin-inducing menu. Not just a health food restaurant. This self proclaimed eatery, exercise and education institution will invoke happy vibes in even the most dreary of us.

What's Good?

Dishes like the Nutrition Bomb, Brainiac Salad and Deconstructed Sushi will leave you positively buzzing.

> THE DECK BRIGHTON

A café and function venue, The Deck

Brighton in Victoria has a creative modern menu. Are you that guy who goes out for a meal and orders a bunch of sides because they don't have anything to suit your meal regime? Then this place is for you.

What's Good?

Create your breakfast or lunch from a list of 'sides'. You'll pair meat or seafood options with a tasty array of vegetables chosen to your hearts desire. No more dissecting menus or feeling guilty asking for exactly what you want.

If you love foodie musings, jump onto their blog for some inspiration and food education www.thedeckbrighton.com.au

> PALEO CAFÉ

When their ethos is 'Paleo is not a diet but a lifestyle', you know they're serious. With franchises all over Australia, it appears to be working.

This proudly Paleo crowd provide more of a home cooked feel than polished modern dishes. With a 100% gluten free menu, you can rest assured you're eating the Paleo way down to the T.

What's Good?

They supply specialty brands to stock your Paleo pantry, both in store and online. Plus stacks of information and cookbooks to support you on your Paleo journey.

Get online to find a café near you www.paleo-cafe.com.au



FOODS TO GET YOUR GIRL GOING

HAVE you ever pondered what it is about certain foods that just seem to leave you feeling amazing whilst others leave you feeling bloated and tired? Remember the saying, you are what you eat? Well, it's true. Foods you eat don't only impact your waist line, but also energy levels, mood, and your gut.

We've done the hard work so you can be sure you never get the "I have a headache" call from your girlfriend after dinner again. Heed our top 10 below and you'll be hanging the tie on your door as soon as you hit home.

1/ Strawberries: A definite sexy fruit. Full of antioxidants they are great for the heart and arteries. Their tiny seeds are loaded with zinc to support a healthy sex drive. Eat them for breakfast, in salads, as a snack or dessert.

2/ Figs: Figs are known to improve libido and boost the production of pheromones. These versatile sweet treats, reminiscent of a curvaceous woman, are great in salads with meat as well as desserts.

3/ Watermelon: Studies have found an enzyme in this melon relaxes blood vessels akin to the effects of Viagra. Enough said. Add grilled watermelon to a salad with feta or grill fruit kebabs on the barbecue.

4/ Dark Chocolate: Not only are strawberries, figs and watermelon a delicious combination with dark chocolate, they are a winning combo for seduction. Eating chocolate releases the same chemical released when we fall in love, need we say more?

5/ Red Wine: It's no news quaffing back vino loosens up the body. Red wine is high in antioxidants, shooing away heart disease and ushering in high-density lipo-protein (the good cholesterol). Limit yourself to one or two to benefit fully.

6/ Shellfish: Shellfish is widely known to hail high amounts of zinc, which is responsible for balancing testosterone levels in the blood. Zinc and lean protein equal aphrodisiac.

7/ Fatty Fish: Limit red meat to twice a week and eat more fatty fish like salmon, trout, mackerel and tuna. Loaded with omega-3, this essential fatty acid is the foundation of healthy sex hormones for both men and women.

8/ Nuts and Seeds: Topping the charts with omega-3 and omega-6, these crunchy nibbles amplify dopamine levels that spark off arousal. Toast them to bring out flavour and top salads or crumb meat for a low carb schnitzel.

9/ Sweet Potato: Not only is the superior sweet potato less starchy than it's white counterpart, it heralds superpowers for fighting high blood pressure.

10/ Rocket: This peppery salad leaf not only tastes zingy, but will also put a zing in your zang. The amount of nutrients jam-packed into a single leaf is astounding, cleansing the body of toxins that could diminish your sex drive.



FREE MEN'S COLOGNE!





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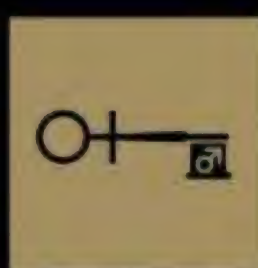
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**Photography: Mick Jones Model: Kahli Morrison Hair & Beauty: Holly Anderson
Sunglasses: Local Supply Bikini/bottoms: Wicked Weasel Tops/hat: Filthy Look Fashion**



















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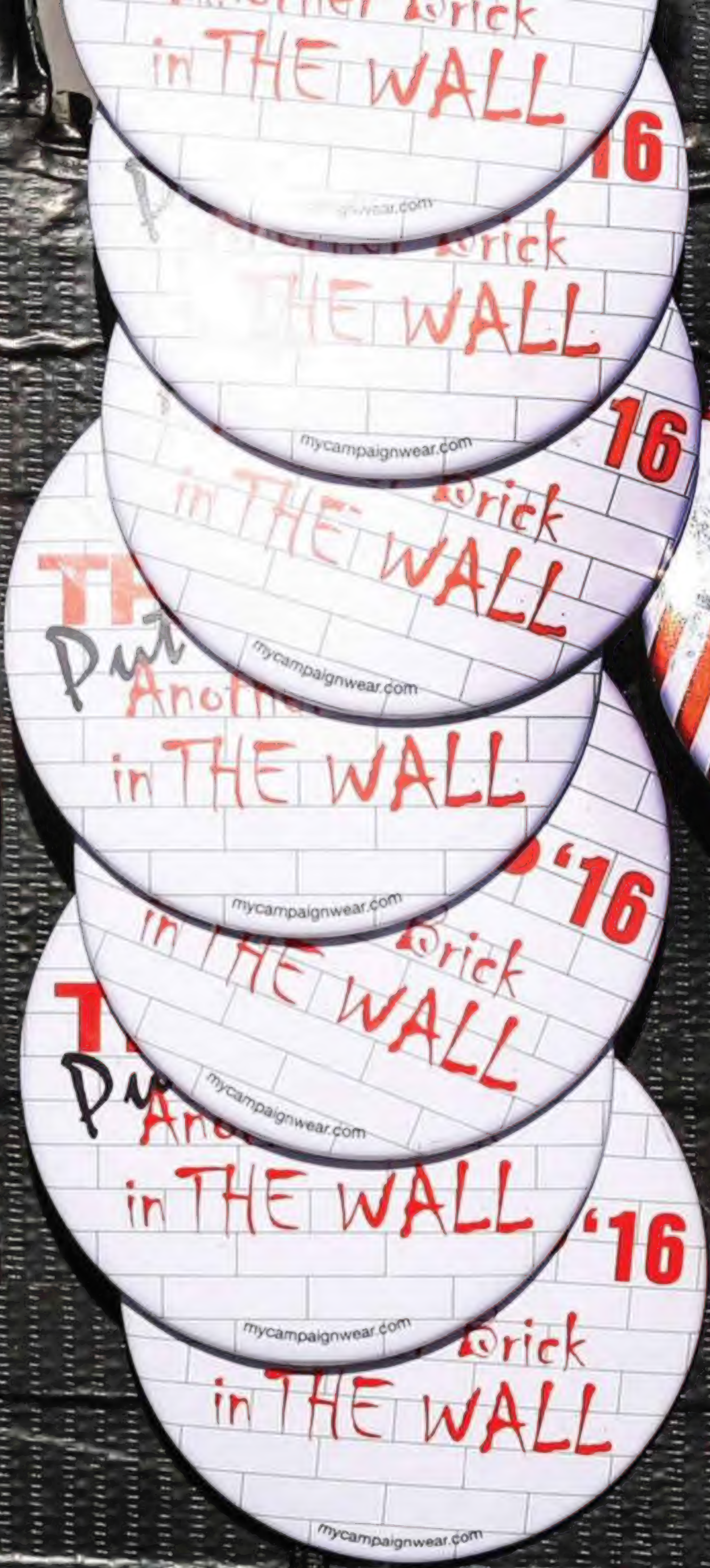


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INFORMER

WELCOME TO THE EMPIRE OF THE DEAD

WHY ARE WE TRAVELLING IN PLACES OF HUMAN TRAGEDY?
A TWO WHEELED ADVENTURE AROUND THE GREAT RED CONTINENT
AND YOUR GUIDE TO THE GREATEST POLITICAL SPECTACLE ON EARTH



YOUR PRIMER TO THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

THIS YEAR THE US WILL DECIDE THE NEXT 'LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD'. GET UP TO SPEED WITH PENTHOUSE'S CHEAT SHEET TO THE BIGGEST POLITICAL SPECTACLE ON EARTH.

BY SEAN BRUCE

LIKE most things, politics in the US are bigger, louder and stupider than they are in the rest of Western Civilisation. This is why we love the yanks. After all, where would we be if Hollywood hadn't committed to making bigger, louder and stupider cinema? We honestly shudder to think of a world without movies like Die Hard and all seven Rocky's.

That being said, the US presidential election, arguably the most important political event in the democratic world, is rife with bizarre customs, stranger characters and a field of candidates so large that it can be a struggle to keep up for even the keenest political pundit. So here we present to you, our little cheat sheet to the biggest political spectacle on Earth – the US Presidential Race.

The Primaries

The Primaries, which are currently underway in the US, are a series of small, state based elections. Each party holds its own Primaries with candidates going state to state convincing the public to nominate them for President. In general, Primary elections are a democratic approach to choosing a leader, allowing the public, rather than party insiders, to dictate who runs for President. In general, the primaries are also an opportunity for candidates to slander each other's names, make political gaffes and waste insane amounts of money all the while blindly hoping the public can still take them seriously enough to elect them President.

Fact: if you want to look smart around the water cooler – Iowa and New Hampshire are the first states to hold presidential primaries – they are considered to be the most important indicator of whether a candidate has staying power.

THE MAIN PLAYERS

THE REPUBLICANS

Donald J. Trump

In an age of peak political cynicism, Trump's balls-out defiance of conventional politicking has won him both the admiration and ire of the American people. The public and his own party have a love hate relationship with the Donald – that is to say, they love to hate him. To his credit, however, he has defied practically every political pundit, and surged from just 3% in the beginnings of his campaign, to the top of the polls, and is now a clear favourite to take out the nomination. It is difficult to say whether we will look back on these events as a reality TV episode gone wrong, or whether Trump has tapped into something major in the psyche of the American voter. The big question - does he have the steam to beat Hillary to the White House? Honestly - probably not – but if he wins the nomination, we are in for a wild ride.

Ted Cruz

Ted Cruz is the closest thing to competition for Donald Trump's election bid. Which is actually terrifying. Don't be fooled by Cruz's Daggy Dad routine – he may look like a mostly harmless doofus – in reality his hard line evangelical Christian view of the world would make even Fred Nile blush. His policy play book is a short list of hard-line social conservatism - anti-abortion, anti gay marriage, advocates criminalising marijuana and generally bringing social mores back to the 1950's.

He is also intensely despised by many members of his own party. In fact, his unlikeable persona has dogged him since even his

the race. He is an establishment favourite with a likeable backstory of being born to Cuban migrants sold on the American Dream, it's a story of hard-work and perseverance paying off in the land of opportunity. As other candidates drop off, Rubio will be looking to build his voter base whilst maintaining his appeal to more moderate Republicans who are turned off by the likes of Cruz and Trump.

THE DEMOCRATS

Hillary Clinton

A former high profile First Lady, a bestselling author, 2008 presidential candidate and Secretary of State in the Obama administration – Clinton is easily the most versatile candidate in this year's presidential race. At this stage, it's less a question of whether she can *win* the election, and more a question of can she *lose*.

That being said, Clinton is mired in the sort of controversy the Clinton's have become well known for. In March 2015, it was revealed that as Secretary of State, Clinton used her own private email account for official business – calling into question her handling of top secret information. A federal investigation will determine whether Clinton faces criminal charges for her transgression.

Notwithstanding her current legal problems – the political landscape in the US is perfect for Clinton – the minority vote is swaying in her direction, the party establishment is behind her and more importantly, her Republican opposition is looking more fractured by the day. If she survives her current legal dramas, Clinton, it seems, is a clear favourite to be the next President of the United States.

Fact: First Female President won't be the only first if Clinton is elected president. It will also be the first time that two US presidents have slept with each other.

THE PUBLIC AND HIS OWN PARTY HAVE A LOVE HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DONALD – THAT IS TO SAY, THEY LOVE TO HATE HIM

college days, with his former roommate declaring “I would rather have anybody else be the president of the United States. Anyone. I would rather pick somebody from the phone book.”

Even his supporters struggle to come up with reasons for why they like him.

“His memory is fantastic” one 57 year old Iowan said when asked why she supports Cruz.

Notwithstanding his poor reputation amongst friends and colleagues, he has shown himself to be a real contender for the presidential nomination. Already beating down Trump in Iowa, he will look to maintain this momentum through the rest of the Primaries. Could he beat the Democrat's Presidential offerings? Not likely – but stranger things have happened.

Fact: Cruz's campaign logo TRUSTED emphasises TRUS and TED by using different colours. Unfortunately for Cruz the top Google search result for TRUS is Transrectal ultrasound - an ultrasound technique that is used to view a man's prostate and surrounding tissues.

Fact: Cruz was recently offered \$1 million US to do a porn tape for Vivid Entertainment. The suggested title? Cruzin' for Bush.

Marco Rubio

Rubio, though struggling to find purchase amongst the jostling front runners, still stands a chance of sliding into the front spot later on in

Bernie Sanders

A self-proclaimed socialist and independent senator from Vermont, Bernie Sanders has defied expectations to become a real contender for the Democratic nomination. Similar to Trump, much of Sanders' popularity has arisen from dissatisfaction with so-called establishment candidates. Sander's promise of real change on issues such as healthcare, education, welfare and banking have captured the spirit of a generation who has seen politicians on both sides become increasingly controlled by big money. Voters feel like they have lost control of the world they knew, socially, politically and economically. Outsider candidates like Trump and Sanders, promise large scale reforms and a shift from the standard way of doing things. And while Clinton appears to have a lock on this election, her hold might not be as strong as it seems – Sanders managed to raise almost as much as Clinton in the final quarter of last year – via a record number of small private donations from across the US. In sharp contrast, Clinton's donations largely come from big financial institutions like Goldman Sachs and the Lehmann Brothers. Can Sanders beat Clinton for the nomination? If ever there was a better time to be an outsider, it's now – and with some strong results in the early Primaries and growing grassroots support, Sanders is posing more of a threat to Hilary Clinton every day.



THE BIG ISSUES

Immigration

Immigration is a global problem. From the refugee crisis in Europe to illegal immigration in the US; tensions are high on this divisive issue. Trump has gained popularity from the right for his hard-line stance on immigration – promising to stop the illegal influx of Mexican immigrants and to put a hold on Muslim immigration.

Wall Street

The Global Financial Crisis in 2008 showed the world what unregulated financial institutions are capable of. Since then, a widespread distrust of the banking sector has led to calls for politicians to prevent such events from happening again. Sanders stands firmly on a platform of banking sector reform, promising to break up 'to-big-to-fail' institutions and make it harder to conduct 'high risk' transactions. Clinton also falls slightly into the anti-wall street camp, although the legitimacy of her position is questionable as she continues to take donations from large Wall Street organisations.


The Establishment

The old way is out and the new way is in. The political elite have lost the trust of the average voter. People are looking to candidates like Trump and Sanders – who to them represent real change and disruption to the status quo. It has never been a worse time to be the embodiment of the establishment – a problem that Hillary is going to have to contend with if she expects to win this year's election. This could be the year everything changes if Washington outsiders make it through to the nominations.

Gun Reform

You either love 'em or despise them. The symbol of freedom or a tool for mass murder – the issue of guns and gun ownership continues to divide the American Public. Republicans unanimously agree on the right to bear arms – whether it is a rifle for hunting, a pistol for self-defence, or a semi-automatic submachine gun for gangland warfare – the Republicans stand by you. On the left, gun control is becoming an increasingly popular stance, especially after the number of high profile shootings that took place over 2015.

ISIS

A 2015 Gallup Poll indicated that Americans consider the Islamic State or ISIS and the international terrorism they support to be the biggest threat to the United States' vital interests. There is no doubt that ISIS and the fractured Syrian state are the two biggest foreign affairs issues facing the next President of the United States. Trump colourfully promises to 'cut the head off' ISIS and take their oil. Cruz suggests 'bombing them back to the Stone Age' and leaving the rest of the region to sort itself out. Clinton and Sanders, typically more dovish on foreign military intervention, suggest that Syrian rebels or Middle Eastern allies should be aided in the fight against ISIS, with direct US intervention being kept to a minimum. 





TRUMP? WHAT THE FUCK?

ARE DIM-WITTED VOTERS THE REASON BEHIND DONALD TRUMP'S SUCCESS, OR IS THERE ANOTHER INGREDIENT IN HIS SECRET SAUCE?

DONALD Trump, big-haired billionaire and wannabe president, is feeling cocky. He reckons his fans are so devoted to him and his rabble-rousing political schtick that even if he killed someone they still would not desert him.

"I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose voters", he said.

That line summed up The Donald beautifully. It was shot through with his knowingly un-PC humour (what other candidate could banter about murdering people and still be taken seriously?). It spoke to the swaggering gruffness he has become known for (behold his withering putdowns of the bumbling Jeb Bush). And it revealed a man who recognises that somehow, to the horror of latte-sipping elites, he has managed to build up a loyal army of supporters.

Trump's rise has flummoxed political observers. To America's snooty media people and political class, nothing is more terrifying than the sight of a few thousand people roaring their approval of capitalist-cum-politician Donald Trump.

Like anthropologists studying some far-flung tribe, they use cod-psychology to try to work out why people are lining up behind Trump.

The Washington Post asked actual psychologists to analyse the Trump phenomenon. Their conclusion? That Trump's dimwitted followers love him because he tells them their problems are "simple and easy to solve".

CNN's diagnosis of the Trump tribe is that it's driven by fear more than rational thinking – "racial and economic fears" in particular.

Others don't even bother with the pretence of psychology – they go straight for insults. A writer for Gawker says Trump and his fans are a match made in heaven because both are thick as pigshit: "The profound stupidity of [Trump's] discourse is perfectly matched to the profound stupidity of its intended audience."

The great irony of all this Trump-bashing is that it's precisely such elite contempt for ordinary people that fuels the Trump movement.

What Trump-mania ultimately represents is a rough-and-ready revolt against the aloof technocrats who have come to dominate the American political class.

For years now, America has been rent asunder by a new kind of politics: the Culture Wars.

Where the earlier left-right politics of the 19th and 20th centuries was largely about economics and political control – pitching

workers against bosses, lefties against righties – the Culture Wars are about attitudes, values, where one stands on gun ownership, abortion, gay marriage.

This new politics doesn't pitch rich against poor, but East Coast liberals against alleged rednecks; the right-on against alleged wrong-uns; the PC against the un-PC.

The new divide was summed up by Obama in 2008. In a rare slippage from his otherwise immaculately spun scripts, Obama said of working-class voters in America's industrial towns: "They get bitter... they cling to guns or religion or anti-immigrant sentiment."

It was a revealing moment in modern American politics, exposing the political elite's bamboozlement at the people it has to rule over.

Such top-down disdain for ordinary people can be glimpsed in everything from the NYT's insistence that most folks are "lousy" at politics to blogging queen Arianna Huffington's claim that Republican voters tend to use their "lizard, more emotional right brain" rather than their "linear, logical left brain".


In such a climate, when elites are estranged from the people, viewing them as simple-minded Godbotherers and gun-hoarders, people feel they're no longer being represented. Or respected.

And into this fray comes Trump, who speaks to this disregarded with respect. He doesn't heap abuse on them; he warms to them, jokes with

them, shares their disdain for the cut-off middle classes that now run politics.

Trump is making mileage, not from people's irrationalism, but from their anger at having been ignored or insulted for too long. As both the Republican and Democratic Parties have become hollowed-out shells, and as politics has become the business of tiny elites who think they know best, the space has been created for a new kind of politician who claims to get ordinary people.

So all the mocking of Trump and his followers is likely to have the unwitting effect of strengthening his momentum, driving more neglected-feeling people into his political arms.

Across the West, in Europe and Australia too, a chasm has opened up between the political establishment and everyday people, meaning Trump might not be a one-off. Other colourful characters may well emerge, to ride the wave of public discontent with the snotty new politics. 

‘
THE GREAT IRONY OF ALL THIS TRUMP-BASHING IS THAT IT'S PRECISELY SUCH ELITE CONTEMPT FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE THAT FUELS THE TRUMP MOVEMENT
,’



PENTH



HOUSE

coming soon to YouTube



MADDISON SPENCE TOUR DE AUSTRALIA

ONE MAN'S QUEST TO CONQUER THE RED CONTINENT ON TWO WHEELS.

HAVE you ever wanted to do something really badly, but stopped short of doing it because the little voice in your head told you that it was “crazy”? We’ve all secretly dreamt of spontaneously jumping on a plane to go jet setting around the world, hiring a Ferrari Spider to take a beautiful girl cruising or, riding 16,000km around Australia on a pushbike. Ok maybe not the last one, but that’s exactly what Madison Spence did. After his mate was diagnosed with Huntington’s disease, he decided to do his bit to raise money, and awareness for his friend’s cause. You would think he at least did a bunch of preparation for it right? Think again.

How did your body cope with the daily exertion?

At first I struggled. I threw up 5 minutes into the trip because I ate too much for breakfast. I did the same on the last day thanks to a \$75 burger challenge from McDonalds Create Your Own. The first week of the ride was torture. I had gone for a 30km ride in preparation but as you can imagine, it didn’t prepare me for riding 100km plus everyday - it wasn’t enjoyable. After two days I couldn’t sit on the seat. When my body adapted I usually just rode till dark, no matter how sore I was. There was plenty of time to rest because as soon as it went dark I would go to bed.

How much preparation went into it. Surely you did a lot of research?

Not enough. I knew I wanted to go south first so I could watch the boxing day test in Melbourne. My cousins own a bike shop (Woodsies Wheels) in Woolgoolga, and they sorted me out with all the gear. I suppose I was your typical loner - all the gear and no idea. In terms of research, I picked my mate’s dad’s brain over a beer before the trip, he had ridden from Sydney to Perth. That was the extent of it.

Any recommendations for someone considering this epic journey?

Bring plenty of butt cream, seriously. Also, don’t piss off truck drivers. And if you come to a place you really like, take the time to have a beer with some of the locals, you can learn a lot from them.

We heard you rode nude for a bit. Did you lose a bet or was there some other motivation?

Some of my mates thought that riding around Australia was not worthy of a donation so I accepted challenges to keep the ride interesting and raise more money for Huntingtons NSW. So, for every km I rode naked I received \$15. I did it for 10km but it was not worth the pain which ensued in the following days.

We understand that you met with some opposition along your ride. Can you tell us about some of your worst experiences?

You always hear about how harsh this country is and I can say that I definitely experienced it first hand. From cyclones up in the Pilbara, strong head winds across Barkly’s Tableland, Bushfires around Margaret River, the sheer isolation and remoteness of the Nullarbor, constant traffic down the east coast and you can’t forget the endless insects that continually test mental resilience.

What were some of the highlights of your trip?

After enduring the heat, the insects, the traffic and the rest of the elements throughout the day, riding into the sunsets were always really amazing, especially with the backdrop of the desert. If there is one thing you get, it’s an appreciation for this country, especially after you’ve experienced the harshness it throws back at you. Another thing is the people. Meeting all of the weird and wonderful people around the country, who, no matter where I was, were always willing to help me out and have a yarn.

You must have spent quite a few nights far from civilisation. How did you cope with the loneliness?

At first it was quite difficult. I would ring my parents but they would just become more worried when I told them about the day or where I was sleeping, so that became less frequent. By the end I really enjoyed the isolation, even though

I could hear animals all night rummaging around me, the night sky in the desert is something else.

A lot of people would think that what you did is a little bit crazy. Why did you do it?

One of my close friends was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease - a hereditary disease caused by an altered gene and there is currently no cure. I thought that by doing this I could raise awareness and contribute to the cause. When I was overseas, I couldn't help but notice the amount of foreigners who had seen more of our beautiful country than I have. Also, I've never travelled around Australia, so this was a great opportunity to do that, as well as help a great organisation like Huntingtons NSW

What did you eat when you were in the middle of nowhere?

A lot of service station food. I was challenged to eat roadkill and contemplated it, however if you get sick in the middle of nowhere, you're in trouble. So I just stuck to a loaf of bread and a tin of vegemite - that would usually get me

the ride I was made to do a shoe from my seedy shoes and was challenged to eat a burger from McDonald that costed \$75 (six angus patties, five servings of bacon, six cheese, a chicken patty, two tomatoes, one piece of lettuce, three hash browns, six pancakes (as the buns), onions and three macaroons). (75% completed).

Continually sleeping on an ants nest become a regular occurrence.

I was booted out of a shopping centre in Karatha for syphoning power cause all my electrics were dead (hadn't had a shower for six days).

A water tanker pulled over gave me some water and turned the hose on and washed me down (Pilbara).

Got challenged to set up a jump on the border and jump the bike from one state to another (popped a tire in the process and took me one hour to make the jump and one hour to fix the bike with no shade in 45 degree heat)

We heard you had a pretty rough experience involving a flat tyre on your rear trailer - tell us what happened there.

Can you tell us about any other uncomfortable experiences?

I was followed by some creep in the top end for three days. I had to sleep with a knife under my pillow for that episode.

Passing out from heat exhaustion just outside of Carnarvon was a bad one. I was rationing water for three days when supply was getting low. It didn't help that I had three consecutive days in the low fifties. However I passed out 25 km outside town and had to walk myself in because I couldn't keep my balance on the bike. This happened again just outside of Broome.

What were some of the most important lessons learnt?

When I felt like I was getting nowhere, especially when you get the map out and see how far you went in a day (not far). I always told myself that 'If I keep moving forward in the right direction I will eventually get home'.

Did you get any chances to unwind along the way? Many chances to party or get lucky?

There were a few places where I put my

"I WAS FOLLOWED BY SOME CREEP IN THE TOP END FOR THREE DAYS. I HAD TO SLEEP WITH A KNIFE UNDER MY PILLOW FOR THAT EPISODE"

about 200km, and when I found a service station I would always treat myself to a chocolate milk and a pie. When I came across a supermarket I would usually buy peanuts, baked beans and tuna. Things tend to go stale very quickly, especially up the top end.

A guy like me, I would surely just give up - What kept you going?

You definitely have to be patient and resilient. The main thing that kept me going were the donations and support. Once I received that first donation there was no turning back - I hate letting people down

What was the funniest thing that happened to you?

I guess there were a few. The funniest moments were usually disasters (every time I had a flat, which would of course happen at the most inconvenient times).

Being abused by drivers and having things thrown at me.

I did a nudie jump off the Forster-Tuncurry bridge for \$400 dollars (went to the charity). I got challenged to eat ten cheeseburgers in one sitting for a \$250 donation (completed). On the last day of


That was a shocker that afternoon. I guess it was my first real bit of bike trouble. It was New Years Eve and it was around 5pm and about 35 degrees. I was covered head to toe in zinc and my trailer tire had gone all the way through to the tube. I was fairly peed off as I was under the illusion tires should last longer and I was still 30km from having a beer at Apollo Bay. I was on the Great Ocean Road at Wye River when it happened. I first went to caravan park reception to see if they had any spare tires lying around, which they didn't. They told me to go to the pub where someone might be able to drive my trailer into Apollo Bay, then I could just ride in. I thought alright lets bite the bullet and see if anyone is driving to Apollo Bay. I took one look at the pub and I knew what was coming. It was full of very pissed vacationers and I looked like a hobo. After meaningless conversations and continually getting heckled, I put my tail between my legs and rode the last 30km with the trailer wheels on the rims. Felt like I was dragging a whale, but I just made it to the bottle shop before it closed.

feet up and had a good time. When you find a place you like, I would usually take a rest day. I always loved seeing friends I hadn't seen for a time and when they offer a place to stay, a shower and a good feed it felt like home. In terms of getting lucky, i'll say once the beard took off and got going my chances went on the slide.

Tell us how it felt crossing that finish line at the end?

It felt surreal. I was on such a big high that I just wanted to keep riding. It felt unusual to stop, I guess. However, seeing all your friends and family cheering you on, especially in such a familiar place. Everyday from the moment I left, I thought about crossing that line, which couldn't come quick enough.

What sort of person would you recommend do this?

I'm not sure I would recommend it to anyone. I think the good thing about my trip was that I was unprepared and clueless about what I was getting myself into. However on reflection, I would say it was one of the greatest experiences I have endeavoured and a really positive high point in my life. 



POLITICAL CORRECTNESS IS THE REAL MUPPET SHOW

WHAT DO MISS PIGGY, THE DUKES OF HAZZARD AND
HUCKLEBERRY FINN HAVE IN COMMON? **BY BRENDAN O'NEILL**

AT first glance, nada. One's a karate-chopping pig who made toddlers chortle. One's an Eighties TV show featuring a couple of redneck cousins. And the third is a classic of American literature that tells the story of two pals and their various scrapes in 1840s Missouri.

Yet something important unites them. All have fallen foul of the new Culture Correctors. All have been found wanting by finger-wagging culture policers, who insist, like Little Stalinists, that culture must have the right moral message or face the chop.

Miss Piggy has been denounced as a "domestic abuser" for all that handbag-swinging she did at Kermit. No less a magazine than New Republic, voice of American liberalism, wished her good riddance when The Muppets announced in September that Kermit has a new beau.

The Dukes of Hazzard has had a rough ride following the Charleston massacre in June, when a racist lowlife killed nine black people in a church. Because the killer was a fan of the old slavery-era Confederate flag, there followed a culture war against any display of that flag. And one place it appears prominently is on the roof of the Dodge Charger in Dukes.

TV Land said it would cancel reruns of Dukes. Warner Bros promised to stop selling toy versions of the Dukes car. Overnight, echoing ISIS's smashing of old art that offends its medieval sensibilities, Dukes was expunged from much of public life.

As for poor Huck Finn: Mark Twain's novel has 217 mentions of the word nigger. So in 2011, a publisher brought out a "corrected" version with every n-word excised. What a grotesque assault on a classic anti-racist novel. It echoes the antics of Big Brother in Orwell's 1984, who shoves down a Memory Hole anything from the past that's now considered offensive.

In all these cases, art or entertainment was judged, not on the basis of whether it moves or amuses us, but on the grounds of whether it contains the right message.

Such Culture Correction is widespread. The correctors' stomping ground is Twitter; their weapon is the Change.org petition, which they use to demand the fixing or even extermination of stuff that riles them.

In America and Europe, books and plays have been pulled for fear

that they will irritate Muslims. Last year in London an art exhibition was cancelled after protesters said it was offensive to blacks. Dapper Laughs, laddish comedian, was ditched by ITV because he fails to celebrate gender equality.

In Oz, Culture Correctors raged against a tour by big-mouth American rapper Tyler the Creator, so he stayed away. Aussie Target stores pulled Grand Theft Auto 5 after a mob of feminists said it caused them "great pain and harm". Opera Australia sacked the Georgian singer Tamar Iveri, after a chattering-class gang went mad over her less-than-PC views on gays.


Under McCarthyism in 1950s America, artists were asked: "Are

you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" Maybe today they'll be asked: "Do you now or have you ever held unfavourable views on homosexuality?" Once, it was right-wing authoritarians who insisted artists must have the "right" moral views; now, leftish agitators make that tyrannical demand.

As we've seen with Huck Finn, the past isn't safe from this censorious mania. Old Tom and Jerry cartoons have had cigarettes erased from them. Tintin in the Congo has been pulled from some libraries in Europe on the basis it's racist. Nothing escapes the insatiable culture cops.

During the Cold War, the Stasi, East Germany's secret police, would squish "politically unacceptable" art. Last year, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, yet, in a terrible irony, it's the outlook of those on the eastern side of the Wall that prevailed. We're witnessing the Stasification of the West, the rise of intolerant cliques that shout down or shit all over art that fails to live up to their moral worldview.

Ray Bradbury, whose 1953 novel Fahrenheit 451, told of a world in which books were outlawed, once said: "There is more than one way to burn a book." Too many people want to "interfere with aesthetics", he said, to make art more politically palatable.

That's truer than ever. Today's pretend-progressives who want to correct culture to make it more women-friendly or cigarette-free are the new book-burners. But in art and entertainment, nothing should be off-limits. Everything should be sayable. Even the unsayable. Especially the unsayable, in fact. 

**MISS PIGGY HAS BEEN
DENOUNCED AS A
"DOMESTIC ABUSER"
FOR ALL THAT
HANDBAG-SWINGING
SHE DID AT KERMIT.**





SIGHTSEEING IN THE EMPIRES OF THE DEAD

WHAT DO DEATH, SUFFERING AND TOURISM
HAVE IN COMMON? DARK TOURISM IS ON THE
RISE AND FOR JUST \$15 YOU CAN GET YOUR
FIX OF HUMAN MISERY.

BY RYAN WITTINGSLOW

AS you descend into the Parisian catacombs, buried deep under the 14th arrondissement, you pass through a portal over which is inscribed a stone warning: “Arrête! C’est ici l’empire de la mort”. Stop! This is the empire of the dead. Past the portal, the air is cool and slightly musty, pregnant with the fading odour of the bones of nearly seven million Parisians. Ordered by type, the bones—skulls, femurs, ribs, vertebrae—line the walls in neatly stacked rows, mutely appraising the hefty American tourists who lumber through their halls.

In spite of the unsettling surroundings, there is something weirdly sacred about the place—as if the tunnels have been afforded dignity by death and the weight of years.

The sepulchral mood in the catacombs exists in spite of its history. Although the tunnels were blessed by priests before the bodies were interred, the catacombs were originally a civic solution to Paris’ overflowing cemeteries.

In the 1760s, residents of the Les Halles neighbourhood—near Les Innocents, the city’s largest cemetery—began to complain of vile odours advancing out of the soil. Indeed, it got so bad that not even the neighbourhood perfumeries could compete with the riotous stench of rotting flesh.

In response, Louis XV issued an edict that no more corpses were to be buried within the bounds of Paris, with the cemeteries to be moved several miles out into the countryside. Unfortunately for Louis—not to mention the desperate perfumers—resistance from the Catholic Church meant that the edict was never enforced.

It wasn't until 1780 that an extended spring rain forced a decision on the issue: one of Les Innocents' retaining walls gave away, and a veritable parade of decomposing bodies poured into the basement room of a neighbouring property. In response, the city's cemeteries were finally emptied, and the miles of abandoned mine tunnels beneath Paris found a new purpose: as a vast mausoleum for the city's departed.

After that, the tunnels' status as a tourist destination was assured. The ossuary now sees thousands of visitors every day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Entry costs approximately \$15. Welcome to the empire of the dead.

In a revelation that I imagine will shock absolutely no one, human beings are excellent at generating excuses to visit sites of particular trauma or ghoulishness: cemeteries, war zones, concentration camps, mental asylums.

Commonly referred to as 'dark tourism' or 'thanatourism' (from Thanatos, the Ancient Greek personification of death), this practice is a form of tourism in which death and tragedy have been monetised for a hungry public.

The appeal of dark tourism can be used to explain a broad class of tourist locations: the Paris catacombs; Pripyat, the site of the Chernobyl disaster; the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Japan; the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Cambodia; Port Arthur (the site of both a convict gaol and the infamous massacre); the Robben Island Prison Museum near Cape Town; concentration camps such as those at Auschwitz, Dachau and Stutthof.

Although the evils that befell these places wildly differ, they are all places where tourists can consume "death and suffering in touristic form, seemingly in the guise of education and/or entertainment", in the words of Philip Stone, executive director for the Institute for Dark Tourism Research at the University of Central Lancashire.

My fiancée—a ghoulish woman herself—has a penchant for these sorts of places. Although I'll freely admit that I was moved to a delighted grin the first time I visited the London Dungeon and its concocted torture chambers, her ardour approaches the terrifying.

"Well, I think everybody loves a good ghost story," she told me over this morning's coffee. "The difference here is that instead of yelling, 'No you fool! Don't go into the basement without a light!' you are struck by the fact that these things happened, and to people just like you. The story isn't about what hides in the dark but the dark itself, and how all of us are consumed by it. Their stories are our stories."

A grim sentiment, but she's hardly alone. As their residents can attest, cities with violent pasts—London, Sydney, Warsaw, Salem, to name a few—are prone to this sort of thing; they are absolutely lousy with ghost tours and other expeditions of the macabre.

Nonetheless, motivated by tragedy, this sort of thing can happen anywhere. As Stone told *The Guardian* in 2013: "It's the commercialisation of death. Take the Flight 93 crash site.

Soon after it happened farmers were selling tours of the field."

Though it might seem mercenary for a private entity to sell tickets to a disaster, the fact that those methods work is undeniable. "But now there's an established memorial," Stone concludes. "There's been a process of commercialisation from that initial demand to becoming a formal destination".

It's worth noting that this is not a recent trend. Tempting though it might be, we cannot blame postmodernity for the inhumanity of man against man; it is not as though the Great Recession has left us with an unquenchable thirst for human gore.

While it's true that before the 16th century it was uncommon for people to move around much (the occasional Crusade notwithstanding), our ancestors certainly shared our grim appetites. Though dark tourism might seem like a contemporary phenomenon, there are distinct historical antecedents.

"You can make an argument that with some of his very first tour groups, Thomas Cook took people to see hangings in Cornwall," Stone notes, speaking of the founder of the eponymous travel agency.

Although our delicate sensibilities shiver at the idea now, for many hundreds of years public executions were a mainstay of the social calendar. Crowds were punctuated by hawkers loudly

selling snacks and souvenirs, while troubadours and other wags would sing ballads describing the exploits of the condemned.

Eyewitness reports of the period describe the frenetic, almost frothy excitement of the crowds as the bodies dropped through the gallows floor and noodled about in the void below, or the joyous clamour when the executioners' axe severed head from body.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that this is a strictly historical phenomenon, either. In the early morning of the 17th of July, 1939, Eugène Weidmann had the dubious honour of being the last person to be publicly executed by guillotine. At the news, a large crowd clamoured

outside Versailles prison, awaiting the bloody spectacle.

Paris-Soir, a news daily of the period, described the crowd's activities as "disgusting", "unruly", and "jostling, clamouring, whistling"; in fact they were so disruptive that the execution itself was delayed by a number of hours.

It is further reported that women hung around after the execution, waiting for an opportunity to dip their handkerchiefs in the blood of the deceased—blood which stained the footpath a deep, ruby red.

Local officials were horrified. For centuries, the purported justification for public executions was that the watching rabble would be terrified into obeisance, with the gory death a salutary moral lesson. After Weidmann's execution, however, it became obvious to French officials that it encouraged quite the opposite effect: rowdiness, agitation, an orgiastic lust for violence.

These predilections did not only find expression in public executions, however. From pilgrimages to see bits of dead saints, to guided tours of mental asylums, to the death masks held in wax museums like Madame Tussaud's, history shows that our appetite for blood remains undiminished.

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Recently, a number of news organs have reported that dark tourism is on the rise.

No doubt thanks to a hideous confection of bloodlust and the death throes of late capitalism (and helped along by the success of Vice Travel and Anthony Bourdain's television travelogues), this macabre corner of the market is experiencing an undeniable boom.

Thankfully, most contemporary dark tourism is relatively benign. In 2015, Airbnb gave punters the opportunity to stay overnight in the Paris catacombs over Halloween; visitors to the C Chi tunnels in Vietnam can fire authentic Viet Cong weaponry; those with a masochistic streak can spend an evening trapped in a former Stasi bunker in Rennsteighöhe being berated by men dressed as DDR officers.

Perhaps the most well-known of these ventures is an outfit called Political Tours, founded in 2009 by Nicholas Wood, a former New York Times foreign correspondent. "We work like a newspaper editor," he says. "We know how to put a tour together—we have all of these elements and it's like building a story."

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WHEN SOMEONE WE KNOW
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AND INVISIBLY.
’

At the time of writing, Political Tours offers all-inclusive trips to Kosovo, Bosnia, Russia, North Korea and South Ossetia. Back in 2014, they offered a tour called 'Libya: After the Revolution', which included visits to Muammar Qaddafi's former compound and the Abu Salim prison: the site of a massacre in 1996 where an estimated 1,270 prisoners were killed.

For Wood, there is a strictly economic rationale for offering these sorts of services. "People can travel by themselves so much more easily now, so if you're going to be in the travel market, you have to bring added value," he says.

While we're not quite at the point where Contiki is offering dark tourism packages along with its bus tours and carefully scheduled hedonism, perhaps that outcome isn't as far off as you might think. "What's changing is how these trips are being formalised through the tourism industry, as well as the fact that technology and the Internet are also picking up on it," Philip Stone explains.

At the same time that corporate concerns are waking up to the commercial value of dark tourism, more adventurous dark tourists are beginning to travel independently for the explicit purpose of watching geopolitical tragedies unfold first-hand.

In 2005, New Orleans was a popular destination amongst this cohort, as hundreds of travellers documented the destruction and human misery wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

More recently, and although safely in the hands of Syrian rebels at the time of writing, the Israel-occupied portion of Golan Heights was for a period a Mecca for sightseers keen for a glimpse of the Syrian Civil War.

"People come here every day to see the show," Marom, a retired IDF colonel, told *The Atlantic* back in 2014. "For people visiting the area, it's interesting. They feel that they are a part of it. They can go home and tell their friends, 'I was on the border and I saw a battle.'"

Today, Ukraine and North Korea are dark tourism catnip: the former thanks to the ongoing disputes between Ukrainian forces and Russian-backed militia; the latter thanks to the undeniable mystique of the hermit kingdom.

Both are enormously—if impersonally—dangerous; both places are the sites of untold, unrelenting human suffering. The implications might be disturbing, but in spite of—or perhaps because of—those facts, something about these places beckon to us; they demand our attention.

This much seems obvious. Nonetheless, a question remains: why?

Dead bodies smell like liquorice and peaches, at least at first.

When a person dies and their immune system ceases to function, their gut microbiome begins the process of decomposition. First go the intestines, followed soon afterwards by the spleen and stomach.

This riot of gut flora then begins to break down the soft tissue into its constituent parts: salts, liquids, gases. Anaerobic bacteria—that is, bacteria that don't require oxygen to grow—get in on the act, consuming sugars and farting out methane, hydrogen sulphide and ammonia. This causes the body to bloat.

As the body fills with gas, the remaining tissue begins to haemorrhage and rupture. The skin goes blue-black, and starts to slough off in sheets. Finally, the corpse purges the gases and liquefied tissues that remain in the body through the mouth and anus.

Occasionally the abdomen bursts, like the least helpful fire hydrant in the world.

Of course, short of adopting some of Norman Bates' less savoury peculiarities, I have no way of confirming these facts firsthand; although I'm a fellow reasonably experienced in the game of life, corpses are unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, beyond the purview of my experience. All I know about bodily decomposition is what I've read.

Nor do I think it unusual that I've had so little personal experience with death. Although I certainly know people who have died, and have been to a number of funerals, the bodies have always been hidden behind administrative processes or in wooden caskets.

It's a macabre game of now-you-see-me-now-you-don't.

Life means presence. Death means absence.

My experiences, and experiences like mine, are evidence that Western culture has fallen out of touch with the reality of death. Or at least, so claims Caitlin Doughty, author of *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* and founder of The Order of the Good Death—an organisation that prepares "death-phobic culture for their inevitable mortality".

It is to our collective detriment, she says, that Westerners are so death-averse. Not in the sense of action movies or video games, obviously; no one is denying the visceral satisfaction of watching John McClane let Hans Gruber fall to his death at Nakatomi Plaza. Instead, she means something a little closer to home.

When someone we know dies, bodies are kept behind closed doors and in caskets; people die in hospitals and hospices, their corpses whisked away smoothly and invisibly. We have an abstracted relationship with the ends of our lives; while death has not been bested, she has certainly been made to behave.

This, according to Doughty, is part of the problem. "We no longer live in an era where the dead body is laid out in the front parlour, washed, and cared for, and waked by the family," she says. "We outsource our death to funeral homes and corporations, and that leaves people hungry for some kind of honest relationship with mortality."

Thanks to the media we produce and consume, the death that we do encounter is stylised, bombastic, technicolour. Or sometimes it is quiet, staid, mournful. Occasionally, it might even be comedic.

Rarely though are we reminded of the brute physicality of death.

Rarely are we confronted with the fact that something happened, and it happened here, and it happened to someone just like you.

Although it might be a bit much to call dark tourism an 'honest relationship with mortality', it's not a huge stretch to think that the appeal lies in somehow, if imperfectly, reconciling ourselves with the fact that we too shall die.

Being a dark tourist means coming to terms with that fact, regardless of whether or not we want to. It doesn't matter if the destination is an ossuary, a concentration camp, or a war zone, or whether the

location is heartbreaking, voyeuristic or kitsch; they are places on the very edge of life and death.


"Time collapses when I am standing alone in a charnel house," Paul Koudounaris, author of death photography book *Memento Mori*, told *The Guardian* in 2015.

"I think that is why they made such effective liminal spaces. They enforce upon me the lesson that no matter who we are and how different we seem to be, we are all part of and subject to a greater cycle—a cycle which in the end ensures that we all end up unified and largely undifferentiated."

This, I think, is the key to the puzzle. The bones and the death and the tragedy of these places address us mutely. "I was once like you," they accuse. "You too will soon be like me."

In a way, the motivation behind public executions wasn't entirely wrong: there is a moral lesson at the heart of dark tourism. However, rather than scaring us straight, it simply forces us to admit to ourselves that we too will one day shuffle off our mortal coils.

Like the slave who sits behind the emperor in Tertullian's *Apologeticus*, the acknowledgement keeps us honest. It's a bit hard to be vainglorious when the spectre of death is lurking around every corner.

"Respite post te. Hominem memento te," the slave mutters darkly. Look behind you. Remember that you are but a man. 

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FEMALE HYSTERIA THROUGH HISTORY

THERE'S A 'BUZZ' SURROUNDING THE TRADITIONAL CURE FOR FEMALE HYSTERIA.



In the 19th century hysteria was a fairly common medical diagnosis that applied exclusively to women. The symptoms varied wildly, ranging from faintness and nervousness, to sexual desire and the ominously vague 'tendency to cause trouble'. Today, we still use the word to refer to an uncontrolled emotional outburst, however its meaning is deeply rooted in the medicalisation of female behavior that, at the time, was considered abnormal or otherwise untoward.

Initially, it was thought that hysteria was caused by a 'wandering womb' – which is how the condition earned its name – hystera being the Greek word for womb. The womb, according to the classical philosopher Plato, was like 'an animal within an animal', prone to moving about on its own accord – often seeking out 'fragrant smells' and avoiding 'fetid' ones. Today, of course, this all seems ridiculous – the words of American humourist Mark Twain come to mind: "it's no wonder truth is stranger than fiction. Fiction has to make sense".

The story continues in the 19th century, with doctors all over

his vocation, these doctors were from a very different world. Not only did they grow weary of the effort it took to get their patients off, but their prudish, 19th century sensibilities were offended by the nature of the work. And so, being the industrious men that they were, they found a mechanical vibrating device to do the job for them. This, as you have no doubt already guessed, is the weird origin story of the vibrator.

The first vibrator was invented as a method for stimulating spinal nerves in men, for the purpose of improving the memory. The original inventor was inexplicably adverse to the idea of using it to give women orgasms, but this didn't seem to deter doctors all over the world from applying the invention in this way.

After these developments, it didn't take long for the vibrator to find its way into women's rooms all over America. Women, it seemed, could not get enough of this revolutionary new 'treatment'.

The first vibrator – frighteningly named 'the manipulator' - resembled something that would look more at home in a

'THE MANIPULATOR' RESEMBLED SOMETHING THAT WOULD LOOK MORE AT HOME IN A TORTURE CHAMBER THAN THE BOUDOIR.

the modern world categorising, analysing and treating hysterical women. As previously mentioned, symptoms for hysteria were vague and broad – enough so that practically any woman could be diagnosed as having the condition – to the extent that at one point it was thought that approximately a quarter of the female population was afflicted.


Of course, the medical community, with only their patient's best interest in mind, developed an ingenious treatment for this widespread 'epidemic'. A 'pelvic massage' - which is exactly what you think it is. Doctors believed that male semen would mingle with female semen in the womb and become toxic if not released. So the good doctor would help his patient, through manual stimulation of the clitoris, until she experienced hysterical paroxysm, or as we know it, until she came like a waterfall.

There was only one issue, however. Even though we're sure there are many men out there who would selflessly take up

medieval torture chamber than the boudoir. They were large, ungainly, steam powered, coal fired contraptions that weighed several kilos. Not exactly something you keep tucked away in the bottom drawer.

By the 1920's, vibrators were making appearances in pornography, thus dispelling any illusion of their supposed medical purpose. In the 1960's, therapists were recommending their use for sexual dysfunction, and in the 70's feminists had united around the vibrator as a symbol for female sexual liberation.

In the current day, vibrators and dildos are all but normalised. According to a recent study, more than half of women acknowledged using one – with their use considered to be synonymous with positive sexual health.

It is strange to think that it took a sexually repressed Victorian culture and a frightening lack of medical understanding to produce one of the most celebrated sexual icons – but ultimately Mark Twain had it right – truth really is stranger than fiction. 

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IN FOCUS

INTIMATE BEAUTY

WE SPOKE TO PHOTOGRAPHER
RYAN MIKAIL ABOUT HIS WORK
BEHIND THE LENS



I first picked up a camera when I was 17. It was a 35 mm Canon, and I was shooting a friend of mine, Maria, sitting barefoot on the fender of an old firetruck. The photo was for my high school art class, and it ended up winning an award at the state level. Seeing how people reacted positively and engaged deeply with my work this way inspired me to pursue photography as a career, and in the decade that followed, I've been pursuing this dream constantly. I'm from Miami, and I started shooting a girl who signed Elite soon after we started working together. After a few years of shooting most of the local talent, I moved to New York, and began working with the models there.

I like shooting nudes because you don't have to worry about how a dress will wrinkle, or a clip showing. In order to capture the type of emotional intimacy that I do in these photographs, I need to get to know the girls before we start shooting. I take my time setting up, we'll go out for coffee beforehand, so that by the time I pick up the camera we're past the point of getting to know each other. I like to capture a lot of the person and who they are without controlling too much of it. I try to have the girls do what they would do naturally... I like honesty. A lot of these photographs come from situations where there is no pressure—where there is no one to please but the model and myself. In these settings, there is freedom to take risks in terms of positions, compositions and angles. The best images come from the girls who understand what we are creating together.

Who is the hottest woman in the world, and why?

For me, a woman's personality trumps all physical traits. That personal connection is what means the most—someone who is funny and easy to be around will always be sexier to me than someone who just has a nice body. My girlfriend is the hottest woman in the world to me.

What's the one thing you couldn't do without?

Space. I need mental space for thinking, ideating, and working out creative problems. I also need physical space to move around a lot. If I'm trapped in a room all day I feel heaviness, which keeps me from being productive. I love to be in photo studios before the team arrives and I can imagine what is going to happen, and it can be anything. Open galleries, outdoor spaces, empty warehouses and similar locations are inspiring to me—these types of spaces allow me to declutter my mind and think freely. There's nothing to distract one in those spaces. They are like a visual and mental blank canvas. Your mind can go anywhere because there is nothing to focus on. For me, these spaces are necessary for creativity. The mind needs to be free to wander.

What's a photography trend that irritates you?

There are two things that are currently happening in the photography world that I find disheartening. One is photographers who get hired for jobs based on social media followers and not their actual talent. This is generating a lot of bad work and also lowers the value of photography, as it undermines the really beautiful artwork that true artists are creating, and discourages them from taking their place in the world of photography.

Another major issue is how common it has become for artists' work to be reproduced without credit. Our current



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**IN ORDER TO CAPTURE THE TYPE OF EMOTIONAL INTIMACY THAT I
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BEFORE WE START SHOOTING.**

media diet and social structure is designed to support aggregated content without crediting the original source. I find it's often a losing battle to make sure a creator is credited on Tumblr posts, Instagram accounts, etc.

Who is the greatest photographer of all time, and why?

I'm a big fan of Helmut Newton's work—he creates compositions with such beautiful light. His photos have character and a sense of humor, while still being sexually charged and strong. His work is a beautiful blend of surreal and rawness.

If you could photograph one person in the world, who would it be?

This changes on a daily basis for me, as I'm thinking about it all the time.

At the moment, I would love to shoot with Guinevere Van Seenus. She is such an intriguing model. She has these wonderful angles and facial features that always make me pause on an image when I see her. I've seen her on the train a few times.

As a photographer, you stare at people. Super special, even in her street clothes. I can see her in any situation I would want to photograph, and know I would get what I wanted out of her.

What's your shoot-day kit have in it? Camera, lenses, etc.


I currently shoot with a Nikon D800, and have a 50mm 1.4 lens and 85mm 1.4 lens on hand.

I prefer to shoot natural light and try to keep my shoot kit as minimal as possible. I work with the raw surroundings to light my subjects. The more equipment and setup time a shoot requires the less authentic and more distracting I feel the shoot becomes. Lots of lights, equipment, and variables can make connecting with my subject more difficult.

What's your dream camera?

My dream camera doesn't exist yet—it would be a professional-quality camera with dynamic range that slips inside my pocket so I could capture real moments while remaining discrete. It would have the quality of a full frame DSLR in the body of a Sony RX100. I have my fingers crossed that someone will bring a camera like this onto the market in the next few years. Having a discrete camera helps capture real sense of moment, without distracting or intimidating your subject.

Your favourite location you have shot, and why?

The Andes Mountains in Peru, hands down. I think about this place all the time because the feeling that I had in this one moment there I know I won't be able to feel ever again. As I was hiking, it was raining and foggy, I was walking through a shallow stream, then the path opened up and I couldn't see far enough to know if I was walking in the right direction. The boulders in front of me faded in and out.. I was in the middle of nowhere in dense fog, and occasionally I would see glimpses of mountain ranges. I felt lost and disconnected from the world. At that moment, I decided not to take a photograph because it wouldn't capture the feeling I was feeling... but I regret it a bit because visually I would want to remember the rocks in more detail... but the rest of the nature photographs I took on that trip were by far my favorite. 







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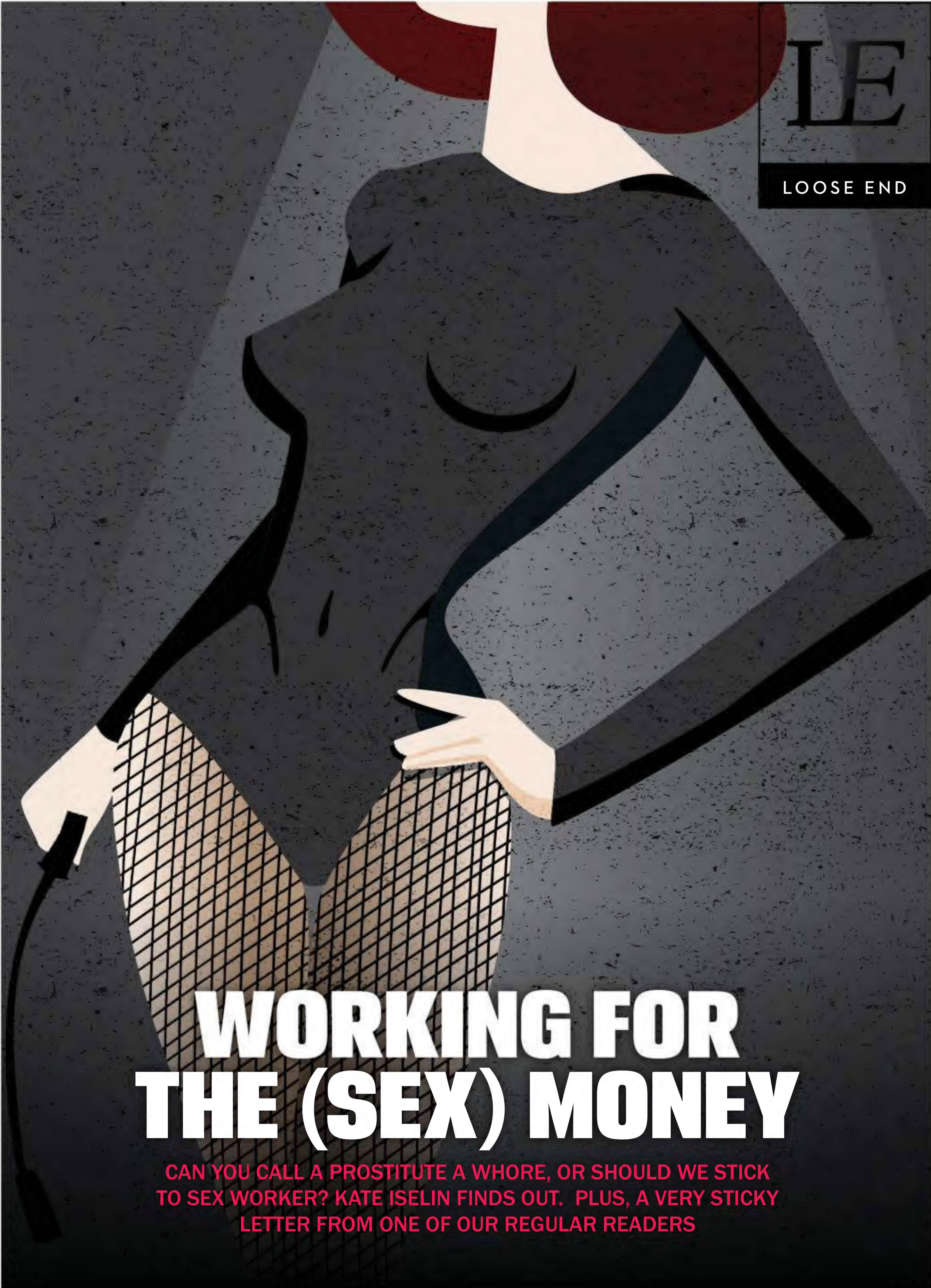
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CAN YOU CALL A PROSTITUTE A WHORE, OR SHOULD WE STICK
TO SEX WORKER? KATE ISELIN FINDS OUT. PLUS, A VERY STICKY
LETTER FROM ONE OF OUR REGULAR READERS



A WHORE BY ANY OTHER NAME

JOB TITLES IN THE SEX INDUSTRY. BY KATE ISELIN

PROSTITUTE, hooker, sex worker, whore. Sometimes it's easier to describe the day-to-day minutiae of my job than it is to give it a title: I have sex for money, usually penetrative, frequently with men, and always – at least in my career history – in a brothel. When I tell people what I do for a living, I'm usually faced with a litany of questions. "What's the kinkiest thing you've ever done?" inquired one friend, while a lover was quick to ask, "You're not forced to do anything, are you?" (My even quicker response was no). But after the queries about hourly rates and celebrity clients and how I manage to stay upright in heels for eight hours, one question remains: "What exactly am I supposed to call you?"

I've always had a soft spot for the word 'hooker'. Politically correct it ain't, but it's one of few terms that acknowledge a certain amount of skill on behalf of the woman concerned. To me, 'hooker' has always conjured images of wily sirens using their hair extensions and acrylic nails like fishing lures to, quite literally, 'hook' men in. Campy and more than a little crass, it lends itself to women with a level of street-smart hustle, and it's also a fantastically fun piece of slang to say aloud. It's a term I use when referring to the more comically tacky parts of my job: why do I pay for take-away coffees with hundred-dollar notes? Why do I have condoms stashed in every purse? Because I'm a hooker, baby, and that's the hooker life.

reminder that although our uniforms might involve eight-inch stilettos and we probably see more dicks than your local urologist, we're no different than any other professional. It's also a handy catch-all term for anyone working within the sex industry: strippers, webcam performers, erotic masseuses, and dominatrices all fall under the 'sex worker' umbrella.

As recently as the seventies and eighties, women like me were commonly referred to as prostitutes. A term dating back to Ancient Roman times, 'prostitute' - or prostibulae, to those randy old Italians – refers specifically to a woman who provides penetrative sex as part of her service. I've always felt it's the most accurate term for what I do (plus it makes me think of bawdy, good-time gals swanning around brothels in corsets and bustles at the turn of the century), which is why I'm so disappointed that anti-sex work activists have essentially campaigned it out of usage. Thanks to the second-wave feminists who decided that a woman couldn't possibly exchange sex for money of her own volition, 'prostitute' became 'prostituted women', a nasty little term that assumes every woman who provides sexual services is doing so against her will, forced on to the red-light market by an evil pimp lobby. It makes me sad to think that a term used by so many for so long now, has been turned against us by a group of puritanical bigots who think we power the patriarchy with every pump


"WHY DO I HAVE CONDOMS STASHED IN EVERY PURSE? BECAUSE I'M A HOOKER, BABY, AND THAT'S THE HOOKER LIFE"

'Whore' is a term I'm less fond of, because it's almost exclusively used as a slur. I grew up sneaking viewings of The Jerry Springer Show after my parents had fallen asleep, and 'whore' – along with its derivative, 'ho' – never quite lost their sting as the default insult slung between the women on stage. While it's true that a good portion of Springer guests had cash-and-cock in-hand occupations, there were just as many labelled a whore for doing something perfectly innocent, like donning fluorescent eyeshadow or wearing sequins during the daytime. As a way to put down a woman for expressing sexual agency it's effective, but in conversation it's more of an insult than a job title. Plus, the amount of times I've heard someone say they're 'whoring' themselves out working in retail or food service has dulled the effectiveness of the word: I constantly want to remark that until you've stumbled home at six in the morning with a wallet full of unmarked fifties and the Latex base of a condom holding your ponytail up, you really haven't whored yourself out at all.

According to everyone from the Scarlet Alliance to the World Health Organisation, 'sex worker' is the preferred term for any person within the sex industry. Accurate and descriptive without bordering on purple prose, 'sex worker' acknowledges the intimate nature of the service I provide while still acknowledging my job for what it is: work. While so many women struggle against the misconception that what we do doesn't constitute 'real' work, 'sex worker' serves as a

- and it also disappoints me that there's no longer one specific term to separate penetrative sex workers from others within the industry.

In the five years I've worked in the industry, I've never settled on a name that I like. I prefer 'sex worker' from strangers, 'hooker' is fine from close friends, and 'whore' is admittedly permissible in the bedroom if the mood should strike. But if anything makes up for the lack of clarity around my title, it's hearing good-natured attempts to describe my job in euphemism to avoid potentially causing offence. 'Lady of the night' is a common descriptor I hear, and it's usually used by clients desperate to convince me – or themselves – that I'm a good girl who's eons away from being a common flesh peddler. It's a nice effort, but each time I'm called a 'lady of the night' I picture myself as some kind of hooker superhero, donning a catsuit and using Thierry Mugler perfume to propel myself in to the stratosphere. Similarly, 'working girl' casts images of a wide-eyed Marlo Thomas in *That Girl*, and 'tantric engineer' – the most recent and possibly most ridiculous title I've ever heard – just makes me picture myself controlling an industrial crane with lubricant-sticky fingers.

Truthfully, intent is what matters most to me. A well-intentioned soul using 'prostitute' because they know no better is infinitely preferable to someone spitting 'sex worker' as they roll their eyes; and to paraphrase a quote from drag performer RuPaul: "I don't care what you call me – just as long as you call me." 



Dear Sex,

I love you, but you're taking up a lot of my time and I'm starting to question our relationship. Yes, I am a man. Yes, I love being balls deep in you, but I'm questioning the amount of time I spend with you, think about you, and try to recreate you when you're not around. Yes, I am of a sound state of mind, thanks for asking.


So what's the problem you ask? Well, it's hard. No, it's not hard, but 'it', as in 'the problem', is difficult to clarify. Don't get me wrong, I love sucking on a pair of exotic breasts, and meeting new strange as much as the next freak - so what's the problem?

I've had threesomes, midnight blow jobs on bus rides in South America from exotic women the colour of cinnamon, too many one night stands to count, strippers and a countless assortment of freaks, who like me, just want to get down. And University. My god, I'm getting excited thinking about it. How couldn't I? It's raw. That place where good girls let the bad girl come out and play. It's where the 'freak' in all of us waits in hiding, waiting to cross paths with another likeminded individual.

I've been called promiscuous by some, but obviously, they don't know what they're talking about. Truth is, I've been looking for 'the one' - one or two or three girls at a time. But not anymore.

Sex, I'm done with the random one night stands - babes at bars, cute girls on the street, and tinder - you can keep them. Why? It all seems like a good idea until it's over; and then reality hits. I could've just had a cup of tea and a wank and avoided all of this.

Men have a penis and a brain, but only enough blood to run one - and that is the bane of men's existence.

So for the time being, I'm just going to stick with my safety wank and a cup of tea, which, is exactly what it sounds like. Because in the words of Woody Allen, "Don't knock masturbation - it's sex with someone I love." 





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